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『私とあなたの子には、
いずれこの世界を覆う『魔』を打ち払う力がある。
その力を、今ここで守らなければならない』



SUZUNO KAMAZUKI

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Prologue

The night Maou, Suzuno and Acies began their journey to Ente Isla through the 'Gate of Hell' at Ueno Park.

An ambulance ruined the silence of the night, and left with Urushihara on board. However, Chiho did not have the leisure to worry about him and could only nervously stare at the person standing next to her.

Chiho had seen that person once in a video.

Shiba Miki----the landlady of Villa Rosa Sasazuka who frightened Maou and Ashiya immensely.

Facing her directly like this, it could not be denied that the other party was a person with a strong presence.

But when compared with angels and demons, it did not feel like she had a special power which surpassed humans. From Chiho's point of view, Shiba just looked like a normal middle aged lady with a rather exaggerated attire.

If there was any problem with the current situation, it would probably only be staying back in the apartment with Shiba, who she was meeting for the first time.

Until just now, Chiho was still asking her previous employer, also Shiba's niece, Ooguro Amane about the 'truth of the world'.

Amane seemed to have a good understanding about Maou's true identity, the demons from Ente Isla, as well as the Sephirah and the Tree of Life.

After Maou and Suzuno headed to the foreign world of Ente Isla to rescue Ashiya, Emi and Alas=Ramus, Chiho started to try to obtain information from Amane in their place.

But Shiba visited unexpectedly. Because Urushihara, who complied with Chiho's wishes and was eavesdropping on Amane, suddenly fainted, the conversation was brought to a halt.

Amane started to panic after Shiba appeared, Urushihara had also fainted and was lying unconscious in the Demon Fortress.

In the end, Amane followed Shiba's instructions and contacted a certain place, an ambulance appeared shortly after that to take Amane and Urushihara away.

Just like that, at almost 2am in the morning, Chiho was left behind at Villa Rosa Sasazuka together with the madam whom she was meeting for the first time.

"That child Amane....."

"Y, yes?"

Shiba did not look at the flustered Chiho and asked directly,

"since the beginning, she had always done things rather sloppily, did she act rudely towards you?"

"E, erhm.....by acting rudely, what do you mean....."

"I meant that as a descendent of the Sephirah, did she say anything wrong."

“Ah.....”

Chiho did not expect Shiba’s question at all.

In the conversation with Amane just now, she described Shiba in this manner----

“The landlady of this apartment Shiba Miki, is also an existence born from the Sephirah.”

“E, erhm, I.....”

If so, it meant that this lady in front of her was closer to the core of the truth which Chiho wanted to know compared to Amane.

Just as Chiho planned to speak and ask Shiba about the continuation to what she heard from Amane----

“Sasaki Chiho-san.”

Shiba called her name.

It was not the type of question Chiho should ask without even introducing herself, or when the both of them had only met for the first time.

Chiho swallowed what she wanted to ask. She felt that her soul had immediately submitted.

Once her name was called, all of Chiho’s will had submitted to Shiba.

It was like she had remembered the feeling of being scolded when she had done something she was not supposed to when she was younger. Her mental state had commanded her. Her soul did not allow her to resist the existence in front of her.

“Let me confirm something first. Even if you do the truth, you are unable to change anything. Even after understanding this, do you still plan to know everything?”

“I.....I.....”

“You were born in this world, and do not have any special power, yet you are a special human. It looks like you are even unaware of what the small amount of holy magic which is stored in your body signifies. After knowing everything, your heart might not be able to withstand your powerlessness and break down. Even so, you still wish to know?”

Chiho did not know why Shiba asked this.

It was impossible for her to know.

Because if she gave up on understanding, she would definitely be unable to understand the meaning behind what Shiba said just now.

“I.....”

“Hm.”

“Even if I am tormented by my powerlessness after knowing, even though I am afraid of regretting it after knowing.....”

Chiho spurred on her submissive soul. She could not back off now.

She did not have the power to fight together with them, did not have the intelligence to fight together with them, and even did not have the life to fight with them, the things which Chiho could do were very limited.

But completing these very limited things was the path Chiho should fight on.

If she chose to run away because she could not do anything, and just watched everything from the sidelines, she would not be able to stay by their sides.

“I still do not want to give up on understanding. Because it feels that once I give up on understanding, then everything will end.”

“.....”

“After I know, even if I cannot do anything.....at least I can create a situation of ‘I know about this’. I.....”

With her small body, Chiho fought against the silence of the night and the pressure causing her soul to submit.

“I believe that someone with power who values me would be able to treat ‘the me who knows things’ as a motivation or pawn, and fight in order to change the situation!”

In this instant, Chiho felt the power restraining her heart decrease slightly.

Then, Shiba looked down at Chiho with a surprised look on her face.

“.....Admirable.....”

Shiba gripped the gold chain on her handbag tightly.

“I’m sorry, saying such arrogant things.....I don’t have any power, and I did not say these words because of any noble ideals. It’s just that.....”

Chiho looked up towards Villa Rosa Sasazuka and said,

“I wish to continue interacting with the people I like the most. I am here because of this.”

“No, to harbour these feelings, and to fight for them, such people are rare. I am starting to see why ‘she’ would like you.”

“.....Eh?”

Without being aware of it, the strong power restraining Chiho’s heart had already disappeared, Shiba stretched her hand towards Chiho.

“You can come to my house today. I cannot ask you to go back now, I also do not wish to enter and disturb the place while the tenants are out.”

“A, alright.....”

Right now, she was unable to enter room 201 belonging to Maou and the others, and Amane, who was in room 202 helping Suzuno to look after the place had also left in the ambulance.

Chiho accepted Shiba’s proposal, and after that, she followed the latter to a western style house next to Villa Rosa Sasazuka.

This building that was three times the size of Chiho's house with a huge yard could be categorised as a luxurious house within the city of Tokyo.

After passing through the entrance hall which was decorated such that it resembled that of a movie set, Chiho arrived at an elegantly designed living room.

“Even though it's late, I also have some things to ask you. Could you keep me company for a while?”

Shiba invited Chiho to sit on a sofa with silk embroidery on it.

Then she helped Chiho, who did not look very calm, get a hot cup of red tea.

Even if she was very nervous, after drinking one mouthful of the warm sweet black tea, Chiho finally relaxed her shoulders.

“Then, you might have already heard this from Amane. this world----Earth had an existence known as the Tree of Life in the past, the jewels born from the Tree ‘Sephirah’ form the world, and created the foundation of humans.”

“Y, yes.....”

At this moment, Chiho remembered that she had left her notebook and pen in Suzuno's room.

“If you don't mind these, it's fine if you wish to record these down.”

Shiba took out a notebook, a feather pen and an inkwell from somewhere and passed them to Chiho.

“T, thanks.”

As Chiho struggled with the feather pen and inkwell which she never used before and before she was ready to take notes, Shiba threw out a bomb.

“In principle, all the Sephirah have to stay in the world they were born in.”

After understanding the meaning of this sentence, Chiho covered her right hand subconsciously, but this small action did not escape Shiba’s notice.

Shiba looked straight at the ring on Chiho’s right hand with the ‘Yesod’ Sephirah embedded in it, and continued to speak,

“Recently, ‘Sephirah which do not belong to Earth’ have visited Earth. Even though their presences can no longer be felt, it looks like they did not return to their original location.”

With regards to the ‘Sephirah which do not belong to Earth’----

“Sephirah are jewels making up the world. Once the jewels are lost, the humans of that world will slowly go extinct. Even though it’s not something which will happen in a few days, the Sephirah have to be returned to their original world as soon as possible.”

From what Chiho knew, it should be three existances with human forms.

One was a boy brought over by the demons, Iron.

One was a girl together with Maou, Acies=Ara.

Lastly----

it was Emi and Maou's 'child', and to Chiho, she was an irreplaceable girl.

Alas=Ramus.

Chapter 1: Demon King and Hero, Having Nothing in Common

魔王と勇者、盛大にすれちがう



Her bank savings have reached rock bottom.

The reason was simple, because the money had all been spent.

Then where did go the money go to? Firstly it was to someone else's new mobile phone. Even though a cheap model was chosen, but because it was not contracting a new line and was instead, changing of a different phone model, it was still a significant cost even if an old model was chosen.

Next would be clothes. It was mostly the buying of a few sets of clothes for a middle aged man which she had not bought before, after buying underwear and shoes, even though only reasonable choices were made, it was still a heavy cost.

Then it was 'payment'. She actually had confidence in her savings, but 'money claims' exceeded her imagination and unexpectedly exerted pressure on her future plans.

After settling all of these things at once, her savings had hit rock bottom.

"E, erhm, wouldn't it be better to have a more planned way of spending money?"

A middle aged man said this to her in a jittery voice.

"Do you mean that you want me to continue owing that guy a favour? To keep withstanding those demon-like debt reminders?"

"That's not what I meant."

The man chose his words carefully, and spoke like he was advising her,

“You don’t have enough money in your account right now, without a job, the income from next month onwards is not guaranteed. There are still other ways like using my savings or paying by installments right?”

“I hate to borrow money.”

“Ugh, even though I hate it as well.....”

“Basically if I continue to not clear the debts, who knows how the interest will be accumulated.”

“But.....”

“In addition, my thinking right now is to be responsible for returning the favours I owe everyone myself. If I do not resolve these things with my own power, I would not be able to steel my determination and step forward anew.”

This was a spacious living room of a certain high class apartment. There was a table with a cute tablecloth on it in the middle of the room, and the stern looking daughter was looking at her troubled looking father from across the table.

The troubled looking father got up slowly, and pulled open the western style curtains further within the room.

“Then, Emilia, what about this.”

The father with the troubled expression addressed his stern looking daughter

as Emilia, he, with his originally intimidating appearance looked at the streets outside the window like he had partially given up.

“Do you wish to consider moving to that apartment called Villa Rosa Sasazuka? Without considering ‘them’, including Bell-san and Sasaki-san, aren’t many of your friends living in Sasazuka?”

“.....”

The daughter named Emilia, sighed in a volume which could not be heard by her father, moved her gaze away from the savings book she had been staring at, shook her head and said,

“Didn’t I say so before? I cannot leave this place immediately.”

The daughter stood up, and sat next to her father.

“No matter what, I have some attachment to this place and this area, as long as I live my life more frugally, my salary from the previous month will be credited into my account, the earliest I can act would be after that.”

“.....I see.”

“Thanks to everyone, I currently do not have any ‘enemies’ whom I have to face. As long as I can find my next job, there will be a way to manage.”

The daughter’s tone did not sound like she was pushing or forcing herself.

However, the father’s instincts felt that what were mentioned just now were not all the reasons.

Did his daughter have other reasons for not wanting to leave this place?

However, this daughter had gone through many trials and tribulations and was an independent adult. The current him did not have the courage or the right to expose that reason.

“Forget about me for now, how about you father? Saying a new life..... seems a bit strange, but is living in Sasazuka still going smoothly for you?”

“About that. Acies did complain that the stars she could see at night had decreased.”

“This is the city centre after all.”

The daughter gave a wry smile, then immediately lowered her volume and asked,

“Then? Did you find any clues?”

The father also replied this question with a heavy voice,

“No.....there’s no progress at all. Currently, there are no leads at all.....”

“I see. But this point can at least be confirmed right?”

The daughter, Emilia Justina turned towards the father, Nord Justina and said,

“Mother.....Lailah is on this Earth.”

“It seems...to be so.”

Nord’s voice was wavering from the lack of confidence.

Seeing her father’s unsure side profile, Emilia pursed her lips.

“I’m sorry, I’m not chiding father. It’s just that.....”

“No, this can’t be helped.”

Emilia, the Yusa Emi who is no longer the Hero, stared down at the streets of Eifuku and said,

“Until now, we are still not sure what Lailah is planning, and for what purpose is she taking action for, it’s really irritating.”

※

In this one month, the environment around Emi changed greatly.

Emi, who returned to Ente Isla to look for clues about her parents, was involved in unexpected trouble, so she was unable to return to Japan at the appointed time.

The eastern empire Afashan declared war on the whole of Ente Isla, the pro-battle faction of the Demon World, the Malebranche Clan, planned to revive the Demon King Army and Emi was implicated in the scheme of the forces of Heaven working in the shadows as well as her past comrade Olba who planned to make use of these two forces, and became imprisoned.

Demon King Satan Maou Sadao knew afterwards that Emi and the one who did not leave her side, the fragment of 'Yesod' which formed the jewel of the world Alas=Ramus, were dragged into some kind of trouble.

However, during the period Maou did nothing about this, his right hand man Demon General Alsiel----Ashiya Shiro, became involved in Heaven's schemes together with Emi's father Nord Justina, and was brought to Ente Isla.

In order to rescue Ashiya, Alas=Ramus and Emi, his largest obstacle to his ambition to conquer the world, Maou and his neighbor, the inquisitor, Demon General of the new Demon King Army (temporary name) Kamazuki Suzuno travelled to Ente Isla together with a girl who was also born from a fragment of 'Yesod'.

The purpose of Olba and Heaven was to make use of Alsiel and the Malebranches to create the situation where the resurfaced Hero Emilia will exorcise the Demon King Army out of the Eastern Continent.

However, Ashiya saw through Heaven's plans, and from one of the people from Heaven, Gabriel, he had felt another purpose different from this drama rerun.

In the battle at the royal capital of Afashan, Azure Sky Canopy, where many motives intersected fiercely, Maou and Acies stole everyone's attention.

When Maou saved Emi and Ashiya from the battle, in the background, Suzuno also freed Emi's comrade who had to go through an apostasy trial, Emerada.

From the results, even if various forces in Ente Isla wish to obtain Emi, Maou and Suzuno had systematically and successfully built the foundations to seal their actions.

Emi became self aware of the weakness in her heart which was grabbed by Olba as well as the deep trust she had for Maou who should be her enemy. Moreover she reunited with her father whom she thought she would not see again, regardless of Emi's original resolve, she had lost her identity as the Hero.

She who originally carried her destiny and had to fight Demon King Satan who threatened the safety of the whole of Ente Isla----that Hero Emilia Justina no longer existed.

Even though she had reunited with her father and her hatred towards Maou was no longer as strong as before, this did not mean that everything had ended.

Until now, they did not have any clues about the movements of the existence of the culprit who created the situation currently faced by Emi, Maou and most of the citizens in Ente Isla----Emi's mother Lailah, and at the same time, they did not know what her purpose was.

In addition, the true identity of the mysterious astronaut behind the angels, Gabriel, Kamael and Raguel, was still unknown.

Obstructing Emi who had lost her feelings of motivation of fighting the Demon King was a mysterious ocean so wide that it could not be crossed and with currents that could not be understood.

✖

“Mama! I’m back!”

Behind the frowning Emi, a lively voice was heard, Emi’s expression slowly relaxed after hearing that voice.

Nord’s expression looked at his daughter’s side profile with many emotions flittering across his face, and then turned to the owner of that voice as well.

“Welcome back, Alas=Ramus. Oh my, why do you have that balloon?”

Alas=Ramus was currently hugging a yellow balloon. She was not holding the plastic hand grip, but was hugging the balloon tightly like it was a watermelon.

“It was being given out in front of the station. It seems to be a stall promoting mobile internet.”

The one who replied was definitely not Alas=Ramus.

But Kamazuki Suzuno who came to Emi’s apartment as Nord’s guard.

“Grandpa! Balloon!”

“Y, yeahh.....”

Nord, with a stiff smile on his face, nodded at Alas=Ramus who was proudly showing off the balloon.

Even though Alas=Ramus's position was as Emi's 'daughter', the both of them were not blood related, and even if Alas=Ramus's 'younger sister' Acies=Ara called Nord 'father', since he was the father of 'Mama' Emi, then from the viewpoint of Alas=Ramus, Nord could only be the grandpa.

Emi, who had already accepted being addressed as 'Mama', looked at her father who seemed very depressed at being called 'Grandpa' with an expression more complex than the person himself.

"Thank you Bell. Was Alas=Ramus obedient?"

"Yes!"

"Yeah, she was very good."

Before Suzuno answered, Alas=Ramus had already made her report.

For safety's sake, Nord would always be protected when he goes about his activities.

Even though it was already confirmed that Nord will move to room 101 of Villa Rosa Sasazuka, before that, if he needed to go out, he would go together with Suzuno, who has more free time.

In order to let Emi and Nord talk about more serious topics about money, Suzuno brought Alas=Ramus out during this period of time.

"But, eating donuts is a secret."

Besides reporting that she was obedient, Alas=Ramus also exposed the small secret of what happened during the walk.

“Oh my! You ate snacks outside?”

“That’s a secret! You have to keep it!”

“It looks like I have to teach her the meaning of a secret first.”

Alas=Ramus proudly looked up towards Suzuno, the latter showed a wry smile in embarrassment, looked down at the girl and said,

“Because she was standing in front of the donut shop in the station and not moving at all, so I accidentally spilit her too much. I’m sorry.”

“No, it’s fine. I will pay you later. Alas=Ramus, did you thank Suzuno nee-chan?”

“Yes! But, it’s a secret!”

Alas=Ramus, hugging the balloon, smiled mischievously at Suzuno.

Even though she could understand that this was a matter which only belonged between Suzuno and her, Alas=Ramus still did not know how to keep a secret from others, this innocence caused everyone to smile.

“I’m just worried if this would affect Alas=Ramus’s actual meals.”

“It’s alright. One donut would not affect this child’s appetite at all.”

“That’s good.”

Suzuno nodded, then looked up again at Emi and Nord.

“So, what was the result? Have both of you reached a conclusion?”

“Uh, about that.....”

“Even though the situation is a bit harsh, it can still be solved.”

With a forceful tone, Emi interrupted Nord, who was answering Suzuno’s question with a pleading tone in this voice.

“But, Emilia.”

Seeing Nord’s expression after he was interrupted, with different emotions compared to just now, Suzuno showed a wry smile.

“I said so before, this is my problem. Don’t worry, compared to the things which happened until now, having no job and being in debt is not considered that much trouble.”

“But.....Bell-san, can you help me talk some sense into her.....”

Judging that he was unable to convince Emi who spoke this way, Nord turned to Bell for help, but the latter shook her head lightly.

“Since Emilia has decided this, I am unable to say anything as well.”

“Thank you, Bell.”

“How can this.....”

Compared to the frantic Nord, a dependable smile appeared on Emi’s face.

“Alright then, Nord-dono. It’s about time for us to return to Sasazuka. Emilia has other guests for today, and we have other appointments later.”

“Y, yeah.”

“Then, Emilia, Alas=Ramus, we’re taking our leave first.”

“Yeah, about father’s matters, I’m leaving it to you.”

“Suzu-nee chan, Grandpa, bye bye!”

“Y, yeah.....”

With Suzuno’s prompting, Nord had no choice but to leave, however on the short journey to Eifuku station, he still looked back at the apartment a few times.

Seeing this, Suzuno asked Nord,

“Nord-dono, are you worried about Emilia?”

“Eh? Uh, erhm, with things as they are now, I should not need to worry.....”

“I’m very worried.”

“Emilia is not little anymore.....hm?”

Suzuno said this directly, causing the originally depressed Nord to be surprised.

“Since it’s Emilia, she must have agitatedly said that she wanted to independently return the favours she owed everyone because of the commotion before right?”

“Yeah, that’s right. I wanted to pay back the favours with her.....”

Suzuno and Nord passed through the ticket gate of Eifuku station and waited for the train on the train station.

“When Emilia was still young, she carried too many burdens at one go. Right now, all these burdens have instantly disappeared and she probably feels very uncomfortable. If she wants to regain her composure, she would either need a very strong purpose, or take some time to get used to the current situation.”

“.....”

Suzuno’s words caused Nord to show a heavy expression and lower his head.

“Even though the one who caused her to carry these burdens was not anyone else, but me.....”

“I can guarantee that Emilia definitely does not think this way. In fact, her

current anxiety is probably all directed at Lailah. Nord-dono, on the contrary, is the symbol for her to continue to chase her dreams when she was carrying the heavy burdens, and since you have miraculously reunited with her, she is more likely to not want you to carry any burdens.”

“I’m really a useless father. Even though I have not done anything which a father should have done for her.....”

Nord was still looking downwards.

Tomorrow, he was going to move from his temporary living place in Mikata to room 101 of Villa Rosa.

Nord originally wanted to take this chance of moving house to convince Emilia to move together to the other empty rooms of Villa Rosa Sasazuka, but he was rejected firmly.

Normally, since they were family members who reunited after many years after one thought the other was dead, and Emi had extra space in her rented apartment in Urban Heights Eifuku, it would be fine as long as Nord moved there, but from the current situation, this was not a good idea.

Amongst the people who are connected with the ‘Yesod’ fragments, since Nord was considered someone very close to the core of the mystery, he would need to be guarded very closely.

However, Emi’s apartment was some distance away from Sasazuka, where the visitors from the foreign world who knew about the situation gathered.

Considering that Emi had to go out to work in the future, it was worrying to

leave Nord in the apartment by himself, and even so, it was not feasible for Nord to follow Emi outside when she went to work.

In the end, the best way was to let him stay at Villa Rosa Sasazuka, which had a lot of people who understood the situation and could be guards.

Of course besides that, even if she had extra space, as a member of society, to live together with her father in an apartment which was basically not suitable for family living, there would still be many inconveniences, that was also one of the reasons.

But because of that, Nord was unable to provide any assistance to help the daughter he had not seen for six years to ease her life.

Today, he originally wanted to at least help Emi ease the burden of her current 'debts', but even for that, he was rejected.

Suzuno looked up at Nord, who was overwhelmed by the feeling of helplessness with a complex expression on her face.

From Nord's standpoint, not only was he unable to do anything for his daughter who was in trouble, he was even rejected even though he wanted to provide support, it was not strange for him to feel depressed because of worry and the setbacks.

However Suzuno did not think that Emi's situation was as serious as it looked like on the surface.

After all, Emi's biggest creditor was not anyone else but Maou Sadao.

Since he had obtained the amount of demonic magic he had when he was at his full power when aiming to conquer the world, Demon King Satan still immediately went back to work at MgRonalds in front of Hatagaya station after he returned, and living a life in the same way as before, in addition he also allowed his sworn enemy the Hero to use money----and in Japanese yen----to pay back the favours owed to him, and to Suzuno, who knew them for quite some time, she even felt that it would be unnecessary to worry about them.

“But it’s true.”

Suzuno said in a volume which could not be heard by Nord.

“Aren’t you able to handle this in a more skillful manner, Demon King.”

She recalled what happened the day after Emi and Nord reunited.

After Emi and Nord returned from Ente Isla, they rested in room 101 which was opened under the goodwill of the landlady of Villa Rosa Sasazuka, Shiba Miki.

That day, Suzuno also stayed in room 101 in order to check on the condition of Nord’s body.

“Excuse me, Hero Emilia.”

Maou Sadao, who suddenly came down from upstairs, said this with an evil smile which matched that of the Demon King.

“Oh.....Maou-san.....”

Nord greeted Maou when he recognised Maou’s face, Emi, who did not know how to act towards Maou, let him enter the room first.

“Emilia, you should know what business I have looking for you right? Hm?”

Even though Emi did not understand why Maou acted differently from usual, like he was putting on a show----

“.....What is it.”

She, who knew that she had owed him a huge favour, was unable to treat Maou coldly, and could only respond to him directly.

“It’s nothing much, I just want to ask you to return the favour you owe me as soon as possible.”

After saying this, Maou took out a piece of paper torn out from a notebook and placed it in front of Emi.

It was covered in handwritten numbers.

Emi accepted the note with a stunned expression and read through it quickly, then Suzuno noticed that her expression instantly became pale.

“What is this?”

Emi’s voice was trembling slightly, Suzuno looked over from the side, and discovered that on the paper with three large words ‘Debt Letter’ written on it

with a pen, with Maou's costs for his driving license as the first entry, there were detailed entries of the money Maou spent for the sake of Emi ever since Emi disappeared in Ente Isla.

Anyway, Maou seemed to want Emi to use Japanese yen to return his financial losses because she went back to Ente Isla.

Ignoring their previous animosity, Emi was already aware that she needed to repay the favours she owed this time, but the reason for her shaking voice, was the amount of money written on top.

“Considering that you have other expenses later, and you have to find a new job, I won't ask you to return the money immediately. But as professional of living in Japan, you should know of it right? This world has something called ‘interest’.”

“That.....”

“Demon King.....aren't too being too much.....”

Seeing Emi show a strained expression, Suzuno also frowned, but Maou was not bothered about this at all.

“Hm? Do you have any complaints? My calculations are already considered to be rather kind towards you, you know? Because I am a fair Demon King, so I have excluded the parts which I should be responsible for. And the result is this amount of money.”

The amount Maou proposed, after converting it to Japanese yen, was 500,000 yen in total.

To Emi, who currently did not have a job, this was not an amount of money she could pay easily.

As for the items in the expenses, the first was the salary which Maou would have received by working according to his shifts if the commotion this time did not occur.

Then, there was the compensation for being unable to obtain his driving license and the fees for his next exam.

The fees for the whole set of camping equipment, including the food and water, bought for the Ente Isla expedition.

The expenses for changing the phone model of the phone which was so battered that people will feel surprised everytime it was able to turn on.

Then the item with the largest amount in the list would be the cost to buy the Moped.

Suzuno, who browsed through these items with a frown on her face, suddenly realised one thing.

“Demon King, what does this ‘if it’s too much for you, I can still charge you 350,000 yen’ mean.”

“Ah, that’s right, Suzuno. I also plan to discuss this with you, the industrial use Moped you bought last time, can you sell it to me?”

“What did you say?”

“Didn’t you say 500,000 yen for two of them? I really like that Moped, so I want to buy it from you for the half of that price, 250,000 yen.”

The Honda GYRO ROOF Suzuno bought had many features a normal Moped did not have, such as three wheels, the horsepower designed for industrial use and a roof, if a new one is bought, it would cost a few times more compared to a normal Moped.

Even though Suzuno bought second hand ones, both of them still cost 500,000 yen.

One of them was later named ‘Motorised Dullhan III’ by Maou, and travelled with him around Ente Isla, but because Maou was too reckless, the two GYRO were left behind in Ente Isla.

Even though Emerada and Alberto would retrieve all the items, and send them back to Japan.....

“For the 500,000 yen, 250,000 yen is for the Moped. But since you’re not willing to sell it to me, then I can only pick one I want from the other models. The price of GYRO is considered top tier among the Mopeds. If the requirements are not too high, 100,000 yen would be able to buy a rather good 50cc Moped, so in the situation Suzuno is unwilling to sell the GYRO to me, the total amount would be 350,000 yen.”

“.....I refuse. I am the owner of the two GYRO. You used them recklessly without my permission, and when you take responsibility and fix them up, I intend to sell them to a seller and buy a new one. As long as you use your demonic magic, you would be able to make it regain its original state right?”

Suzuno shook her head like she found it annoying, but Maou seemed to have expected Suzuno to reply in this manner.

“Then it can’t be helped, like this the amount I’m requesting from Emi would be 350,000 yen.”

“Wait, Demon King. In actual fact, the request itself is unreasonable.....”

Just as Suzuno wanted to rebut in an agitated manner, Maou held out a hand and stopped her.

“Be quiet, Suzuno. Since you’re unwilling to sell the GYRO to me, then you have no right to butt into this. The money I used on things unrelated to Emi and Acies’s food were not included. If you’re unhappy about anything, I still have all the receipts for the camping equipment. I can explain everything from the beginning as well you know?”

“.....”

Emi silently gripped the handwritten debt letter, seeing this, Suzuno quickly pointed out the contradiction in Maou’s words.

“Wait, Demon King. Whether you wish to buy my GYRO or another new Moped, there’s no reason for Emi to pay for this. In the situation this time, it is different from me paying to buy your bicycle. It would be fine if you had a Moped originally and it was damaged in the journey this time, but buying a new Moped is just your personal wish right?”

“Huh? What are you saying?”

However Maou coldly rebuked Suzuno's reasonable protest.

“Actually, I would be able to request for my ‘reward’ in other forms you know?”

“Reward?”

“That's right. To me, as long as Ashiya and Alas=Ramus are safe, it's fine even if I abandoned Emi. Even though in the end, I would need to bear a huge responsibility for her father's fields, ignoring that point, I have no need to help ‘Hero Emilia’ cut her ties from the Eastern Continent and Ente Isla.”

“Uh, but about that.....”

“Because Emi and Alas=Ramus are merged together, so saving Alas=Ramus would be the same as saving Emi, this kind of reason would not work on me. After all to me, Alas=Ramus is my daughter, but Emi in my enemy through and through.”

““.....””

Maou's reasons, which could not even be described as strange, caused Emi and Suzuno to fall silent.

“The reward for helping an enemy is just a Moped worth a few 10,000 yen. You should be thankful for my generosity, there's no reason to complain to me right?”

On both meanings, the both of them had nothing to say to this.

From Suzuno's point of view, even if Maou complained a lot on the surface before heading to Ente Isla, he was still very worried for Emi.

After the group returned to Japan, he also showed his kind side and did not disturb Emi before Nord woke up.

Of course, like what Maou said, Emi and him will not reconcile because of this incident.

It's just that he did not need to choose to mention these things when Nord was around, doing so really lacked some consideration.

"But....."

".....Alright, I understand."

Even though Suzuno found it hard to accept, Emi, who had been quiet until now, nodded and replied after sighing deeply,

"I just have to clear all these right?"

"E, Emilia?"

Emi ignored the shocked Suzuno and continued to look straight at Maou.

"If.....if this is enough to clear everything, then it's considered cheap."

Emi said this in a steady voice, and Suzuno did not understand what plans Emi had by saying those words.

However for reasons unknown, Maou also widened his eyes in surprise like Suzuno. Even though this reply which acknowledged all of Maou's requests was what he would have wanted.

“O, oh? Y, you're really bold yeah? Emi, let me say this first, that is 350,000 yen, you know that right? 350,000 yen means that I am asking 350,000 yen from you, you know? It refers to 350,000 Japanese yen which is distributed by Japanese banks or the Japan Mint?”

Even though these things did not need to be explained by Maou, he still intentionally emphasised that it was 350,000 yen.

“I know that, so what.”

However, Emi nodded once again in what seemed like a calm manner.

“S, so what, uh, can you fork it out?”

On the contrary, it looked like it was Maou who had completely lost his cool.

“What. Didn't you come to chase for the debt? I know that I owe you a favour. So I will pay it.”

“O, oh.....r, really?”

“But about that, come and find me again when you have confirmed this.”

“W, what? Confirm? Confirm what?”

Emi pointed to the disputed ‘reward’ in the debt letter, also known as the Moped.

“This amount is just a rough number right? When you have investigated the price of the Moped you want, and confirmed the insurance and other fees, write up another debt letter.”

“Y, yeah.....yeah.....”

Maou nodded continuously and gingerly took the debt letter back.

“Are you done?”

“Y, yeah.....uh, erhm.....”

Maou nodded awkwardly for unknown reasons.

“Then, I’m sorry, can you go back first? I still have to buy things later.”

“I, I understand. Excuse me.”

Compared to Emi who had been speaking calmly from beginning to end, with a completely different attitude from when he first visited, Maou turned around in a depressed manner and left room 101.

“Demon King.....”

Suzuno wanted to strike a conversation with that back----

“.....”

But after she noticed the item which looked like a magazine which was rolled up and stuck into the back pocket of Maou's pants, wrinkled from being sat on, she became speechless.

“Seriously.....because he beats around the bush when doing things, this was the result.”

Suzuno boarded the train which entered Eifuku station, and without caring if the obi on her kimono will wrinkle, she sat deeply into the chair with a deep sigh.

One week after that.

Even though the disputed Moped had been put on hold because Maou had not decided which one to buy, Emi had already paid Maou for the new mobile phone, the exam fee for the past two driving exams, the whole set of camping equipment, as well as half of the salary for one week's work.

Even though half of the salary and the Moped were left, from what Nord knew, Emi's savings were currently at rock-bottom.

No matter how high the debts Maou requested were, it should not be that easy to deplete Emi's current savings, however other than Maou, Emi seemed to have strongly decided on her own to pay back the favours she owed Emerada.

That would be the travelling fees which Emi borrowed from Emerada when

she returned to Ente Isla, Emi was insistent that since she had promised to pay Emerada back, she definitely would pay it back.

Emerada definitely would not chase after the debt like Maou did, she even said it was alright if Emi did not pay her back, and even if Emi had to pay, no deadline was given, but Emi said every time---

“If I do not return everything, I would not be able to move forward.”

With the swaying of the train, Suzuno looked towards in troubled Nord with a pained heart.

Currently, Nord already knew that Maou was the Demon King Satan who had planned to conquer Ente Isla.

But before Emi and Suzuno knew the truth, Nord was already involved in the incident surrounding the ‘Yesod’ fragments, so he did not hold any one-sided feelings of animosity towards the Demon King.

The current Nord was simply lamenting the fact that his daughter had encountered a creditor with a bad personality.

In addition, not only did part of the reason originate from him, his daughter even rejected his help, all these things caused this father to feel ashamed.

“The future Chiho-dono wishes for is so close, yet so far.”

A way to conquer the world such that the Demon King and Hero would be able to live harmoniously.

It looked like the wish of the high school girl who loved both the Demon King and the Hero at the same time would never be fulfilled.

With the arrival at Meidaimae Station on the Keio Inokashira Line, Suzuno ended her short introspect, got off the train and prepared to change lines.

“Nord-dono, for starters, let’s just arrange the luggage for moving house.”

“Oh.....”

Since it was not known what will happen in the distant future, they could only handle the tasks in front of them.

In order to head towards Nord’s old home, the two of them walked towards another platform to wait for the train heading in the direction of Keio-hachioji.

※

That afternoon.

After arriving at her destination following the map displayed on her Slimphone, Rika looked up in surprise at the building which was considered a high class condominium.

“Wah~actually living in such a nice place.”

The condominium in front of her was a lot better than the suite she rented in

Takadanobaba, and her destination today was room 505 of Urban Heights Eifuku.

“Don’t tell me there’s something called a ‘Sky Suite’ at the top? Wah! Why is she living in an apartment which looks this expensive.”

After Rika was shocked for a bit by the appearance of the condominium, she was stunned by the large hall which could only be seen in high class condominiums.

“It looks like I will be able to experience many interesting things today.”

Rika kept her Slimphone back into her sling bag, adjusted her grip on the boxed cream puffs which were a gift and walked into the front porch with a rather excited expression on her face.

Of course, Rika came to this Urban Heights Eifuku in order to see Emi.

Her purpose for coming today was to hear Emi explain about the unbelievable foreign world Ente Isla as well as Emi’s past.

More than one week had passed since Emi returned from Ente Isla. Rika, who had heard that things have ended and accepted Emi’s invitation to come here, discovered a figure at the porch.

A woman who did not look like a resident was standing there, she was wearing a beret on her head and was carrying a huge bag which obviously did not match her build at all.

Even though Rika did not really pay attention to her, that woman suddenly turned her head and asked Rika who had stepped through the automatic doors.

“Excuse me~~I want to ask about something~~”

“O, oh?”

Rika, who had not expected to be talked to, got a small shock.

“I have some business with a resident of this apartment~~so I want to go in~~but the troubling thing is~~the door on this side wouldn’t open at all~~”

“Eh.....”

The automatic glass doors leading to the apartments, opposite from the doors which Rika just walked through, that lady who spoke with a strange drawl was pointing towards that place with an expression which did not look that troubled.

“Even though it says automatic door on top~~but it won’t open by automatic or manual means~~what should I do~~”

That was natural. The doors to the apartments were automatically locked and would only activate by calling the residents through the caller or when the residents exit.

“Uh.....as long as you operate that panel, and call the room.....”

“Call~~the room~~?”

Faced with Rika's simple and easy to understand explanation, this petite female frowned in a troubled manner for unknown reasons and looked confused.

“Uh, so, you have to press the room number on this keypad, then press the call button, and ask the person inside to help you open the door.

“Oh~~I see~~”

After listening to Rika's explanation, the petite woman looked at the panel and Rika one after another, surprised.

“I thought I had to ask for some kind of password from the residents here~~”

“Uh, it's fine as long as you understand. Then, please go ahead and press first.”

Even though she felt that the other party was a strange person, Rika still decided to let that woman use the caller first.

“Erhm~~excuse me~~”

“Hm?”

“There are only numbers 0 to 9 here~~what should I do if the number I want to press exceeds 9~~”

“.....Eh?”

Rika, who momentarily did not understand what was being asked, replied in a dazed manner.

“Erhm~~the room I want to go to is room 505~~but the number ‘505’ is not here~~”

There cannot be one. There was actually a modern person who did not know how to use a keypad, before being confused about this, Rika stared at the face of the woman in surprise.

“W, what is it~~?”

“Did you say room 505?”

“Yeah~~”

Rika quickly surveyed the attire of this calm woman.

The feeling this woman gave was obviously different from normal people.

Even though it was hard to explain, Rika noticed this because the clothes worn by and the bag carried by the petite woman in front of her were all made from high quality materials that came from culture circles outside of Japan.

Rika also did not know why she only noticed now, but the woman’s hair which showed underneath the beret and her eyes which were staring at Rika were a green which would definitely not belong to any Japanese.

These characteristics caused Rika to recall a certain person in her memory.

“Are you.....Emerada-san?”

“E, eh~~?”

The petite woman wearing a beret took a step back in surprise.

“W, who are you~~? Have we met before~~? Y, you’re Japanese right~~”

“Y, yeah, erhm, we have never met.....”

Rika objectively observed the other party carefully once again.

“I had heard a girl I know mention this before, among Emi’s previous friends, there is a green haired girl who talks in an especially drawn out tone, I remember that person is called Emerada.....uh.....what was the back again. Emerada Etu.....”

“It’s Emerada Etuva.....what a shock~~Emi, is Emilia’s Japanese name right~~that means, you’re Suzuki Rika-san~~?”

The petite lady who called herself Emerada Etuva looked at Rika in surprise.

“Yeah, that’s right. Emi mentioned me to you?”

“Emilia occasionally mentions things about you on the phone~~”

“We have only heard rumours about each other before, it feels rather interesting.”

Rika showed a smile and entered '505' into the panel on the caller.

“Then again~~the girl you know, could it be~~”

“Sasaki Chiho.....or Kamazuki Suzuno-san~~?”

“That’s right. Sigh, it’s embarrassing.....”

Rika gave a wry smile and said,

“Because of various reasons, I only knew about the general situation recently. The reason I came here today, was to listen to Emi.....Emilia talk about the things in Ente Isla from the beginning, I never thought I would be able to meet a guest from there?Did Emi decide on today because she knew that Emerada-san would come?”



“No~~I don’t think it’s like that~~the reason why I came here today.....”

“Welcome, Rika! I’ll open the door now, when you come up.....eh?”

At this moment, Emi’s cheerful voice was heard from the caller, however she seemed to have noticed the situation from the camera on the caller.

“E, Em? The one over there, is it Em?”

“Yep~~sorry for coming over suddenly~~”

Emerada, standing next to Emi, looked towards the camera lens pointed out by Rika and waved with a smile.

“Eh? W, why are both of you.....”

From Emi’s confused behaviour, it seemed like she did not expect Emerada to appear.

Rika and Emerada glanced at each other with playful expressions, and said to the camera simultaneously,

““We just coincidentally met each other nearby~~”

“.....”

The caller of the high class condominium did catch Emi’s speechlessness, and was transmitted to the ground floor where Rika and Emerada were.

“I got a shock. I did not hear that you were coming, and you suddenly seem to have a very good relationship with Rika.....”

Emi, who seemed like she had not calmed down, served the brewed red tea to Rika and Emerada.

“Both of you probably never met before right?”

“We are just comrades who know the rumours about each other~~”

Emerada, in a way as if she really liked Rika’s description, explained their relationship with a smile.

“I’m curious about the things regarding me which you mentioned to Emerada-san.”

Rika, also with a smile, poked Emi with her elbow.

“I, I never said any strange things, you know?”

Emi frantically sought confirmation from Emerada, and the latter replied,

“Yeah~~she said that you’re a friend who has a bold and resolute personality and wears your heart on your sleeve~~”

“Even though I’m honoured, Emerada-san, you probably don’t know what these two idioms mean right?”

“Eh heh heh~~ah~~but I’m curious too~~how did Sasaki-san and Bell-san describe me~~?”

“Actually, what I know is only from the simple explanations heard from Maou-san and the others before they went to Ente Isla. Just like what I said just now, in regards to Emi’s experiences, I only heard it a little from Chiho-chan at Maou-san’s.....uh, erhm, Demon King Satan-san’s apartment.”

“Don’t worry~~I also know about their names in Japan~~then~~how did Sasaki-san and the others describe me~~?”

“It’s Emerada-chan and Alberto-san right? I only know that both of you are Emi’s friends from before, Emerada-chan, like Emi, has strong powers, and is a cute and amazing sorceress.”

“Sasaki-san~~is really a good person~~”

Emerada drank her black tea in satisfaction.

“A, and that your appearance does not show that you are someone who has a huge appetite.”

“.....About that part~~I really have nothing to say~~”

Rika and Emi, both noticed that Emerada’s actions had momentarily froze because of this comment which matched reality but was merciless.

“But~~that is because the food here.....is really too delicious~~”

After Emerada said this, she started to gaze at the gift which was brought by Rika on the table in an interested manner.

“Luckily I brought some extra over.”

After noticing Emerada’s gaze, Rika opened the cream puff box.

“.....What is this~~?”

Emerada stared at the cream puffs covered in icing sugar in a curious manner.

“You don’t know what cream puffs are?”

“Cream puffs.....?”

“When she came before, she only ate normal cake. Do you need forks?”

“No, there’s no need to use forks to eat cream puffs. For girls, they should just bite on them directly.”

“Is it something like bread~~?”

“It.....should not be considered as bread? Uh, anyway, try it first. This is a popular store which recently opened in Takadanobaba, because it’s popular with students, it’s not easy to buy them!”

“Hm~~”

Just like a cat wary of a new toy, Emerada stared downwards at the cream puff, and slowly picked one of them up.

“So light.....but, the inside is heavy~~?”

“Don’t grip it too hard, else the filling inside will come out.”

Emerada stared at the cream puff, and nodded seriously in response to Emi’s warning.

Then----

“Hah~~”

After loosely motivating herself, she used her small mouth to take a big bite out of the firm cream puff, and in the next moment, her eyes widened to their limits.

“Too~~~~~deliciousssssssss~!”

“Ohh?”

On the other hand, Rika got a shock because Emerada was overly touched and shouted with overwhelming aura.

“After spreading~~! So soft~~! Sweet~~! And then spreading again~~!”

“Spreading again?”

Emi and Rika were confused and did not understand, and then Rika clapped her hands once like she thought of something.

“Spreading again.....ah, it’s probably the taste of vanilla.”

“Oh, I see.”

“What Emerada ate just now was the normal custard cream flavour, the one in the yellow packaging is the autumn season limited sweet potato cream flavour.”

After listening to Rika’s explanation, Emerada showed an even more dazzling stare.

“Emilia~~!”

“.....Alright alright, if you don’t mind those from the store nearby which I know of, I will buy some for you later.”

“Yay~~!”

Emerada, not caring that her mouth was still stuffed with cream puff, immediately stretched out her hand for the second one, seeing this, Rika smiled with a shrug and said,

“If I did not see it for myself, no one would believe that you people are Hero, Demon King and Great Sorceress huh.”

Emi and Emerada looked at each other because of what Rika said.

“Then again.....even though I forgot to ask because I got a shock, Em, why did you suddenly come here?”

“Umahum~~?”

“Since you had to come personally, I think something major happened right.”

“Thwt wight (that’s right)~~uueeueeoahhfwah~~”

Emerada, busily eating the second cream puff with a blissful expression on her face, replied in a language which no one in the world would understand.

“Fwah~~the sweets here are really tasty~~”

The petite sorceress wiped the icing sugar off the areas around her mouth, and leisurely drank a mouthful of black tea.

“Anyway~~I came today~~is to report something to Emilia~~”

“Report?”

“Yep~~I’m sorry for disturbing you when you have an appointment with Rika-san~~but I think this definitely has something to do with what Emilia wants to tell Rika-san~~”

After Emerada explained, she quietly put the cup of red tea onto the tray and spoke in her normal manner.

“Olba confessed a lot of things~~”

“Eh?”

“Wah!”

Once Emi heard this, she got up agitatedly with enough force to almost knock the table over, Rika quickly pressed down on the table.

“I’m here to report on what I know so far~~can I speak directly~~?”

Before Emerada explained to Emi, she looked at Rika first.

“Since it’s something this important, then this should be the priority. In a partial sense, I’m just here to join the party.”

Rika nodded lightly and passed the lead to Emerada.

“Thanks.....ah hum!”

After nodding her head in greeting and coughing lightly, Emerada instantly narrowed her eyes and looked at the surface of her half finished black tea.

Seeing that gaze, Rika could not help but hold her breath.

Currently, the person in front of Rika was no longer the gluttonous girl who constantly produced hearts and ate the creams puffs Rika bought with huge mouthfuls.

It was the face of a Great Sorceress who was very familiar with the foreign world which Rika was unfamiliar with.

“The extent of his treachery was even more entrenched than we imagined.”

Emerada, like a different person, spoke with a serious tone.

In the beginning, Alberto and I thought Olba only started his treachery after he hid Lucifer.

After all, the existence of Lucifer, was evidence that ‘angels’ within the bible do exist.

Even though the official records of the Church contain the records of many priests who had communicated with Heaven before, there were no records to prove that angels really existed, or that any humans had really gone to Heaven.

Everyone had thought that the Demon General of the Demon King Army was just casually using the title of ‘Fallen Angel’, but unexpectedly, his appearance was similar to humans and was an abnormal existence with wings on his back, just like the pictures in the bible.

Even I, someone who was not a devout believer, got a shock after seeing that figure.

Olba, as one of the Archbishops of the Church, must have got a stronger shock than me.

Rika-san might not know, the room mate of Maou Sadao, Urushihara Hanzo, was actually the first fallen angel recorded in the bible, and has many names like ‘the Original Sin’, ‘the One who Tried to Become God’, ‘the Child of Dawn’ and so on, and is the most well known angel.....eh? What’s wrong, Rika-san, you say he doesn’t look like it?

Hm, Alsiel often complains about Lucifer’s way of living in Japan? And he

doesn't do housework or work, and would use the Demon King's money without permission to carelessly buy things or generate trash?

.....Hm~~uh~~erhm~~anyway~~please accept that Urushihara Hanzo is considered a rather famous existence in the bible~~then I would be able to continue speaking~~let's forget about his current way of living for the time being~~

Because he was originally an angel~~and became a demon later~~he probably hasn't picked up anything heavier than a spoon.....hm.....hmm!

Erhm, just now I was talking about how I thought that Lucifer's existence caused a huge shock to Olba right.

After defeating Lucifer, Olba acted nonchalant and continued to travel with us, and defeated Adramelech with Alberto at the Northern Continent. After that, we defeated Malacoda in the Southern Continent, forced Alsiel in the Eastern Continent to retreat and had the final battle in the Demon Fortress.

In that battle at the Demon Fortress in the Central Continent, Olba pretended to chase the escaping Demon King Satan and Alsiel, and caused the 'gate' which Emilia was dragged into to close early, cutting off communication between her and us.

After Emilia was sucked into the 'gate', Alberto and I, who did not know anything, had a discussion with Olba. Until now, I still regret the decision I made that time.

Alberto thought that we should chase after Emilia immediately.

But Olba and I, thought that even if we wanted to chase after Emilia, we need to completely eradicate the remnants of the Demon King Army first, and make preparations before going after her.

Even if the Demon King and Alsiel worked together, Emilia's power would still surpass the both of them. At that time, none of us expected that the other side of the 'gate' would be a world like this, if we did frantically go after her, it might greatly decrease the morale of the many knights who participated in the battle in the Demon Fortress, and because we believed in Emilia's power, that's why we made this decision.

In the end, Alberto was convinced by Olba and I, and took part in the battle plan with the Five Continent Knight Alliance to eradicate the strong demons who survived.

.....That's right, at that time, whether it was Alberto or me, we trusted Olba fully.

Normally, Olba is a high ranking priest of the Church while I am a secular official, and in reality, we have a hostile relationship. But not just on the battlefield, during our journey we had received a lot of help from Olba, whether it was wisdom, power or kindness.

So when we discovered that he, whom we gave our full trust, was a traitor, the shock it gave us could not be described in mere words.

After getting rid of the main forces of the demons, we immediately headed towards the 'Heaven Stairs' nearest to the camp of the Central Continent

Knight Alliance, and tried to analyse the course of the 'gate' opened by the Demon King and Alsiel to look for signs of Emilia.

However.....the both of us, who did not expect for the destination of the transmission to be a foreign world, took a very long time to find the tracks of the Demon King and Emilia.

Because Olba was the main person who searched for the tracks of the 'gate', the information he passed us might be fake.

Just like what Emilia knows, he used the excuse that 'he found Emilia' to summon Alberto and I to Saint Ignord, and cunningly put us under house arrest.

As for the reason Olba brought Lucifer along and tried to kill Emilia, Emilia should have heard the Demon King's deduction right.

With Olba at the forefront, the Church, Knight Alliances and the people in power from the various nations were all afraid that Hero Emilia would bring about a new centripetal force amongst the citizens.

Such trends did appear in our world and this also became the indirect reason why Crestia Bell-san was sent to Japan.

However, ignoring what the people thought, whether Olba himself even thought of this as important was a suspicious point.

Even though the Church still frequently publicises this, when Emilia started her journey, it was with the title of 'Church Knight'.

Even without forcefully removing Emilia's position, by making Archbishop Olba her assistant, or making her a Saint, there are still other ways to use the Church's power to support Emilia's prestige.

Emilia may look like this, but she is unexpectedly easily influenced by her surroundings, as long as you tell her that it's for the sake of the people, she might willingly play along, it's fine if it was just the people around her, but Olba himself being so wary of the increase in Emilia's influence and power is really suspicious.

In reality, in the incident earlier, the method Olba used was not to use rewards to attract Emilia, but to use her father's fields to threaten and force her.

After asking the person himself to confirm these suspicions, he revealed many things like he thought it was interesting.

Yeah, in just one week, he aged so much that he seemed to have become a different person. In fact, one could say he suddenly grew white hair.....hm, like you knew, Olba shaved his head before.

But right now, we have completely sealed his magic, and sent 45 elite people, including sorcerers to guard him around the clock, and since he was naturally unable to touch any blades, unable to shave his hair continuously, he had grown out some hair.

.....He's still an Archbishop no matter how low he has fallen~~unexpectedly, he would still take care of his appearance everyday~~

Hmm!

Of course~~we won't believe everything that he says just like that~~after all, the detailed confirmation of the truth of everything he has confessed cannot be done immediately~~which is why I suddenly came over this time~~to ask for suggestions from Emilia and the Demon King who have made contact with Heaven and angels~~

“Em, you reverted back to your normal tone.”

“Eh.....ah.....because the content was serious~~so I originally motivated myself to explain it properly~~but it's tiring like this.....sigh~~”

“I, isn't this too big of a change.....?”

Emerada relaxed her originally straight spine and lazily slumped on the table, causing Rika to be unable to flatter her huge transformation.

“Then, you said Olba's treachery was entrenched, does that have anything to do with what Olba said later?”

“You're right~~”

Without even lifting her head, Emerada continued to speak.

“Before the invasion of the Demon King Army~~Olba already had evidence that angels and Heaven existed~~his belief did not come from this identity as a priest~~he truly confirmed the existence of Heaven~~”

“Truly confirmed?”

“In other words~~he knows that Heaven was not a place for spirits or the place people went to after death~~that kind of metaphysical concept~~but a place which could actually be travelled to~~a place which actually existed~~”

“.....Em.”

“Hm~~?”

“I can give my cream puff to you, please work harder for a while longer.....”

“But his identity as a priest um um (T/N: eating sounds), the bible and the Church’s teachings became an obstruction to him, at that time he keshi keshi (T/N: more eating sounds), had no research or methods to prove that Heaven actually existed um um (T/N: yet more eating sounds).”

No better word than revival could be used to suitably describe the current phenomenon.

Emerada held both of Emi’s cream puffs, one in each hand, and after eating the different cream puffs in alternating bites, she slowly narrowed her eyes and regained her serious expression----

“Emerada-chan, there’s cream and icing sugar on your cheek.”

However, Rika, who had been in awe of Emerada’s aura until just now, took out wet tissue and started to wipe Emerada’s serious looking face from the side, ignoring whether the person herself was respectable or not, the dignity

of the Great Sorceress, weaker than the cream puff, dimly melted into Emerada's stomach.

Just now, I talked about Olba believing firmly that Heaven actually exists right.

The reason why he firmly believed so, was the core of the Holy Sword which Emilia has, the 'Evolving Heaven Silver'.

Rika-san, thank you. Let me drink some black tea.....fuu.

Like you know, Olba was part of the External Relations, Missionary Department in the Church, and since his youth, he was visiting various nations to spread the faith.

Therefore he knew very clearly that the God he worshipped was not a unique entity.

If god was a unique entity, why are there so many people in the world who did not know about God? Why are people able to build such mature nations without knowing who God was?

The bible said that the people who worshipped paganism gods advocating the teachings of God was the right way, then why did the Church have to make these mature nations repeatedly be bathed in blood, starting wars which were known in history as 'propaganda wars'?

When Olba was in the process of spreading the faith, he saw many mature nations, and also knew that some people were totally unable to accept the teachings of God which should be spread to everyone. He seemed to be

troubled over using blades and blood to educate those people who could not accept and the correctness in doing so.

Then, he discovered a certain huge contradiction.

There was a huge contradiction between the Church's history and the words 'Love thy Neighbour' which even the children knew about.

Which god had said before that those people who do not accept the teachings are evil, and that it is alright to kill those who remain unrepentant after being enlightened.

Before Olba, there were many archbishops in history unscrupulously explained the 'absoluteness of God' and in God's name, killed many neighbours whom they should have loved.

At that time, the bishops called it God's Purge, and said that as long as they used the hands of sacred believers to cleanse their souls, God will save them from the hatred and pain.

However, Olba had seen it before.

He had seen a group of people who were unable to forget the Church's killings and plundering based on skewed logic a few hundred years ago, passed these events to their descendents and saw the God whom Olba worshipped as evil.

Even in this world where there was no need to fight but depend on words to dissolve hatred, Olba's voice explaining the teachings of God were unable to move their hearts.

Therefore, Olba was conflicted.

In other words, he started to doubt the existence of God.

Thinking about it carefully, the God in the bible had failed continuously from the beginning.

The only thing which truly proceeded according to God's will was the creation of the world and life.

After that, evil infiltrated Eden, humans lost to temptation and betrayed God, the comrades whom were created by God started to incite wars in various parts of the world, and in the end, even 'gods other than God' have appeared.

However, the Church said that God was an absolute presence.

The bible said that this absolute presence kept failing, yet wanted people to worship that as an absolute presence.

The one which created such a contradiction, is it really God?

Other than humans, Olba could not think of other existences who can cause this kind of contradiction.

After having these kinds of thoughts, Olba decided to rise head and shoulders above the others within the Church.

If all actions within the Church came from humans, then he can just think of it as human actions and act accordingly.

Of course, at this point of time, he had not given up his kind characteristic as a priest, but to be more accurate, he definitely could not be considered a devout believer.

The territory of this huge country known as the Church did not exist physically, but was rooted deeply in human hearts, so Olba can be considered a strategist skilled in this nation's politics, economics and law, and good at understanding people's hearts.

For a person like him, there was something he encountered the first time only after he obtained the position of archbishop.

That would be the 'Evolving Heaven's Silver'.

A sacred tool kept in Saint Ignord, thought to be 'bestowed by Heaven through the angels'.

Legend says that when the world is enveloped in evil in the future, the Hero will appear wielding the holy sword born from the Evolving Heaven's Silver, and by interacting with the Evolving Heaven's Silver, Olba believed that 'Heaven' and 'Angels' did exist.

In other words, whether it was the Church, bible, or even the Evolving Heaven's Silver, they were created by existences on the same dimension and metaphysical state as the humans.

At that time, Olba thought this.

“It’s possible for me to become God as well.”

As if Olba was saying this in front of her in a raspy voice, Emi flinched with a pale face.

“That kind of thing, is he serious about that.....”

“It does appear to be true. The reason why the other nations and the Church were wary of Emi was because they were worried that Emilia will take the authority in the world after the war. But, what Olba was wary of.....”

“He’s afraid that I.....will become God.....? Through the Evolving Heaven’s Silver.....the power of the ‘Yesod’ fragment?”

“I’m afraid so.”

“What.....was he thinking.....”

Emi hugged herself to suppress her shivers, Rika leaned towards Emi’s side and started to rub her back.

“Ever since Olba made contact with the Evolving Heaven’s Silver for the first time, he continuously searched for other similar abnormal existences in various parts of the world. The seminary and the archbishops continued their research over a long time, and the conclusion they reached was that the Evolving Heaven’s Silver was not something of this world. However, Olba believed that there was no such thing as ‘something not of this world’. Because wasn’t the Evolving Heaven’s Silver of a form which could be touched, and appeared in front of him? Other than the chance of coming in

contact with the Evolving Heaven's Silver, Olba was not lacking in the knowledge, authority and money needed for the research. After becoming an archbishop, he kept researching the Evolving Heaven's Silver. However, he could not find any sacred tools around him which sufficed as the research subject. Olba became anxious. As he slowly grew older, and time made him become aware of the limits of his life span.....that incident happened.”

Emi suddenly raised her head.

“The invasion, of the Demon King Army.....”

“At the same time, the world started to discuss about the Hero who would use the Evolving Heaven's Silver in the prophecy. Olba was overjoyed. If the Hero in the prophecy appeared, that person must be someone who could advance the research on the Evolving Heaven's Silver. He did not view the prophecy as a prophecy. The existence of the Hero was also part of a plan of an object which did exist. He believed this without any doubt. After that, the Hero in the prophecy appeared. The Hero who inherited the blood of Heaven, Emilia Justina.”

“.....”

“Emi.....are you alright?”

“Y, yeah.....sorry, Rika, can you stay by my side for a while?”

“Yeah, don't worry, I will listen to it together with you.”

Emi leaned on Rika slightly, but still prompted Emerada to continue.

“I heard it was not difficult to find Emilia. Because the Church passed down the ‘ritual to be done on the Evolving Heaven’s Silver when the world was threatened by darkness’ through the generations. And the ritual itself was also very simple, it was to have someone who matched the criteria----in this situation it would be the Church’s high priest, inject holy magic of suitable strength into the Evolving Heaven’s Silver. Like this, the Heaven’s Silver would emit light pinpointing the location of the Hero.”

Emi had seen that guiding light many times. And some of them were even produced by her own will.

The guiding light was simply the light of the ‘Yesod’ fragments attracting one another.

And it was spread in the Church as a captivating legend.

Then who was the one who told the Church these things? Who was the source of this legend? This was known without thinking about it.

“Lailah.....”

Everything was planned by her mother.

This huge farce centered on the ‘Yesod’ fragments which implicated two worlds.

“After the Church discovered Emilia, they brought you back to the headquarters Saint Ignord. At this time, Olba was only thinking about observing Emilia and the Evolving Heaven’s Silver and using it on his future

research. Olba's thoughts changed decisively in the moment you came into contact with the Evolving Heaven's Silver."

".....What is that supposed to mean.....?"

"Please think back a bit. The Hero in the prophecy, is the 'Hero of the Holy Sword'."

".....Eh?"

"However, the girl taken as the Hero in the prophecy, other than the holy sword, she also made another sacred tool appear."

This sentence caused Emi to suck in a breath.

Because she discovered that the fact derived from Emerada's words was a question which had something to do with the origins of her existence.

"Evil Repelling.....Armour.....ugh!"

"E, Emi? Get, get a hold of yourself."

Emi hugged herself even tighter, and because her actions were too strong, Rika also hugged Emi's body, trying to make her calm down.

"Should we take a break? Even I, who did not know anything before, know that this thing is very serious after hearing this. Listening to so many things at once, the brain should be very tired. So....."

“No.....I’m fine, I’m fine.....I must listen to everything, please, continue on.”

“.....Alright.”

Even though she was worried about her friend’s condition, Emerada still decided to respond to Emi’s determination, and explained everything.

“Unlike the archbishops who were happy that the holy sword Hero actually existed and misunderstood that the Evil Repelling Armour was part of the holy sword, when Olba was surprised about the Evil Repelling Armour, he was still analyzing calmly. The thing he was strongly craving for suddenly appeared in front of him. To Olba, the holy sword and Evil Repelling Armour were samples of the Evolving Heaven’s Silver. He thought that the guiding light was something which combined the Evolving Heaven’s Silver and the Evil Repelling Armour.”

After that, Olba recommended himself as Emi’s guardian, and when Emi set off on the journey to fight the Demon King, he used his experience in the External Relations, Missionary Department to step up and become her assistant.

“After Olba saw both sacred tools, he firmly believed in the existence of angels and heaven. After that, on the day of the battle to free Saint Ignord, he met someone who could, in real life, prove that angels truly existed, Demon General Lucifer.”

“Something like that.....actually happening.....”

“Therefore Olba decided to walk on the path to become a God with a form, he pretended to give Lucifer, who was close to death from the fight with Emila, the final blow, and hid him away. The invasion of the Demon King Army unexpectedly proved that Olba’s deductions over the years were true. However, what was regretful to Olba was that Lucifer did not know anything about the Evolving Heaven’s Silver and Emilia’s holy sword.”

In the past, Emi was also bothered by this.

Lucifer.....Urushihara did not know anything related to the nature of Emi’s holy sword.

Urushihara seemed to be on the same level as Sariel and Gabriel, or an even older angel, then why did he know nothing about the fragments of ‘Yesod’?

“Even so, to Olba, Lucifer was still an important pawn on the road to become God. He assisted Emilia in the travels while protecting Lucifer at the same time, and when we were finally going to attack the Demon Fortress, Olba saw the guiding light once again. That was.....”

“The light formed from the holy sword.....and the core of Alas=Ramus which the Demon King had attracting one another.....”

“This time, Olba seemed to have developed a sense of danger. Even though the new sample was nearby, if that thing fell into the hands of Emilia who defeated the Demon King, Emilia would definitely obtain a new power..... in this way, the existences who called themselves God or angels, might come and retrieve these things.”

It was fine when the Hero used this power for the sake of the human world. But once the demons were defeated, and the people no longer needed the power of the Hero, that power might become the reason for the world descending into chaos once again.

The existence which sent the holy sword and Evil Repelling Armour to the lower bound, would they like to see that? Would that existence like to see more and more people approaching the secret of that power?

Olba discovered the road to heaven after much difficulty, and would of course hope to eliminate all the obstacles on this road, to him, the escape of the Demon King and Alsiel could only be a stroke of good luck.

Even though the core of Alas=Ramus was left in the Demon Fortress, Olba thought that as long as the Demon King, who had something which could attract the holy sword, and Emilia, who had the holy sword, disappeared from the world at the same time, he would be able to buy more time to conduct his research.

Olba pretended to chase after the Demon King, and at the same time Emilia entered the 'gate', he sealed the 'gate' which was still some time away from closing.

He successfully tricked the eyes and ears of Emerada, Alberto and the leaders of the Five Continent Knight Alliance.

However at this time, Olba did not expect that they would drift to a foreign world, so he spent a lot of time to find Emilia.

“What happens next.....would be the same as what Emilia knows. Olba and Lucifer caused trouble in Japan, and tried to bury the Demon King and Hero for the sake of their own desires. But the issue which affected Olba the most in his many miscalculations.....would be the Demon King and Emilia unexpectedly being near each other in Japan and getting along.”

“.....Until now, this sentence is grating on the ears.”

Even though her face was still pale, Emi still recovered to the point where she could show a mocking smile.

“At the very end, Olba’s plan to kill Emilia failed, and lost his control over Lucifer, and him, unable to return to Ente Isla, logically should be unable to continue on the path to become God.....”

“.....So was it Sariel, Gabriel or Raguel?”

Emi asked Emerada this first, the latter gave a wry smile and answered,

“It seemed to be Sariel at first. Olba, who was arrested in Japan, obtained Sariel’s help, and appeared to be under Heaven’s surveillance afterwards, supporting them in collecting the fragments of ‘Yesod’. It also can be said that after he saw angels other than Lucifer, he changed his thinking slightly again.”

The angels, with Sariel as the first one, had a strong power which not only surpassed the Demon King, but even greatly transcended Emilia’s power.

The angels who really existed had sturdy bodies, are living organisms of mysteriousness, had holy magic capacities which could not be obtained by

humans, and overwhelming intelligence, Olba had a strong sense of fearful respect for them.

The self-conceit he felt after obtaining acknowledgement from such great living beings was also one of the reasons, he became the angels' puppet without being aware of it, and started to take action to become one of them.

He did not give up on the road to become God because of this, but after that battle in Sasazuka, what Olba hoped to become was no longer an absolute God, but to obtain the same power as that possessed by Saniel and Gabriel, become the metaphysical symbol of faith of the people in Ente Isla-----'angels'.

However, with the failure of the large scale plan, and with the defeat from the power of Maou, Emi, Suzuno and the others, Olba's will to chase after the goal to become God was shattered, and even his life vitality had faded with the light of his ambition, and thus he had become like a disabled person.

"Listening to this, it feels like it was expected for things to turn out this way, even though he seems like a person who is past hope.....but that person called Olba, what will happen to him in the end? Would he be sentenced to death by your laws?"

Emerada shook her head with a troubled look on her face, and answered Rika's question,

"Hm.....the first problem faced is, which country's law should be used, in fact, where the normal laws are able to judge his crimes are also doubtful.....and in addition, no matter how he has fallen, he is still an

‘archbishop’ and one of the ‘Hero’s comrades’, assuming he is given capital punishment, it would cause too much impact on society.”

From how deep the wrinkles were between Emerada’s brows, it can be seen how troubled she was.

“I think there will be no conclusion for the time being. Honestly, we did not expect Olba to confess so many things this quickly. It looks like the Demon King interfering in the affairs of Afashan, the failure of the plan and the defeat of the angels gave him a huge shock, in fact, the purpose of the angels for having Emilia and Alsiel fight in Afashan is still unclear.....Emilia, are you still alright?”

Emerada lightly sighed in relief and looked at Emi’s face.

“Even though I am unexpectedly not that fine.....thanks to you, I also know some things now. Chiho-chan had also mentioned it before.”

“Sasaki-san?”

“Yeah. And, recently father told me as well.”

Emi subconsciously gripped the hand Rika was using to support her, opened her mouth, and said,

“The ‘Evolving Holy Sword, One Wing (Better Half)’, perhaps from the beginning.....ever since I was born, it was already with me. I think that the ‘Evolving Heaven’s Silver’ in the possession of the Church was not the holy sword, but the core of the Evil Repelling Armour. According to what Lailah said, she seemed to have entrusted the ‘keys’ needed to achieve her goal to

father and me. Father had always been with Acies=Ara. And the manifestation of the other holy sword, together with Acies.....Rika, excuse me.”

After Emi said this, she gave Rika a look, she let go of the latter’s hand, got up, and took a step back.

“Thinking about it carefully, ever since merging with this child that day, the Evil Repelling Armour also ‘evolved’.”

Emi focused slightly.

“Wah!”

Rika could not help but cry out at the phenomenon happening to Emi.

Accompanied by a bright light, a small girl appeared in Emi’s arms.

Rika stared at the small girl with unique hair who was sleeping soundly.

“Alas=Ramus-chan?”

Even though this was Rika’s first time seeing Alas=Ramus from such a close distance, the thing which truly surprised her was of course the fact that someone had appeared from thin air.

At the same time----

“.....Uh, E, Emi? Your appearance.....?”

The changes to Emi caused Rika to sit on the floor in shock.

“So this is.....Hero, Emilia.....”

Rika looked up at the figure of her friend, stunned.

Silk like silver hair and red eyes which seemed to pierce through demons.

The one piece dress over her casual clothes, the full body armour covering Emi emitting a mysterious glow which appeared silver and rainbow coloured.

“Emilia, the shield on your left hand.....”

Emerada, who knew about the state of Hero Emilia in the past, asked this after seeing the equipment on the left hand of the Evil Repelling Armour.

“There was no shield before. This only appeared after merging with this child, the evolved form of the Evil Repelling Armour.”

Emilia looked towards Alas=Ramus who was slowly waking up from her afternoon nap and the round shield on her left hand, and shifted her gaze down slightly.

“The holy sword can change its form based on the total amount of holy magic. After the Evil Repelling Armour made contact with a ‘Yesod’ fragment, it changed from Heaven’s Silver to clothes, and because of making contact with Alas=Ramus, a shield was produced. In addition, Alas=Ramus and Acies=Ara.....these children.....will continue growing.”

At this moment, Emi suddenly relaxed the power in her body, the Evil Repelling Armour became light orbs in front of Rika and returned into Emilia's body.

With her hair and eyes returning to Yusa Emi's usual appearance, Rika, who finally shook off the impact, watched in a stunned manner with an open mouth as Emi bent over and picked up Alas=Ramus.

“Even though the opportunities of each of them are different, the fragments of ‘Yesod’ will grow and evolve. If this is Lailah's purpose.....when all of the fragments are gathered, what will happen?”

Emerada and Rika did not know the answer to this question.

“I don't know what purpose Lailah has, and I don't know what Gabriel or Heaven wants by collecting these children. But.....any ending which will make this child encounter misfortune, I will definitely not allow it.”

After Emi said this determinedly, she looked at Emerada once again.

“Em, thank you for specially coming today. With this I clearly know the reason for heading towards my next goal.”

“What does that mean?”

“After this, I will still want to find Lailah. However, this time it is not for the sake of knowing what she wants to do, but for the sake of Alas=Ramus's future happiness. Whether with the holy sword, or the Evil Repelling Armour, they are my important comrades. I will not allow Lailah to do whatever she wants.”

“Oh my.....after actually seeing this, it’s really over the top.....”

Rika finally recovered from the shock of Emi’s transformation, pressed her hand to the floor and got up.

“Do you feel.....uncomfortable?”

Emi asked Rika uneasily.

Rika shook her head with force while maintaining a stunned expression

“Uh, I just got a shock. I didn’t expect that my friend is such an amazing person.”

And then, while still sitting down, Rika shakily approached Emi’s side, and looked towards Alas=Ramus’s face as she squirmed in Emi’s arms like she was going to wake up.

“Oh my, seeing her close up.....hm, looks like she can only be described as being as cute as an angel. Even though Acies is pretty, being a child scores additional points, they are different in many ways.”

Rika repeatedly looked at Alas=Ramus’s sleeping face, then slightly raised her gaze to stare at Emi’s face.

Emerada stayed silent and quietly watched Rika’s antics.

“I’m not sure if it’s just my imagination, it feels like both of you share a resemblance. Such as eyes and mouth.”

“Is, is that so? Even though it doesn’t really make sense, but.....being said so by Rika right now, I feel a little happy.....”

Emi blushed in a rather embarrassed manner and looked towards Alas=Ramus’s face.

“Yeah, but it feels like her forehead and eyebrow area resembles Maou-san a little.....ah, it seems like you still cannot accept this part?”

Even though Rika was not actually joking, and honestly expressing her thoughts, the originally blushing Emi changed her expression immediately and started to intimidate Rika like she was spitting miasma.

“Even though I am thankful for what he had done earlier, rather than being unable to accept it, it’s more like I haven’t forgiven him.....so my feelings are really complex about this.”

To Alas=Ramus, Maou was an irreplaceable father. Emi was not that immature to deny this.

However, even though she successfully reunited with Nord, Maou was still without a doubt, one of the main reasons which messed up Emi’s life.

Even though Lailah’s faint shadow could be seen behind him, as long as Maou called himself the King of Demons, Emi did not change the view that he should take responsibility for his past actions.

Even so, Emi was aware that with just her own power, she would not be able to kill Maou.

Not only that, from how she was chasing after the warm dinner table created by Maou in her dream, without realizing it, Emi seemed to have some degree of trust in Maou.

Faced with this target, did she still have a need to continue to find reasons to hate him, Emi even thought that even if he sinned, it might not be necessary for her to be the one to crackdown on him.

“Anyway, it’s very complicated.”

Emi said it once again like she was telling it to herself.

“Good morning, Alas=Ramus, are you awake?”

“Uhm.....’orning.....fwah.”

Alas=Ramus rubbed her sleep filled eyes and yawned hugely, then looked around her in a dazed manner.

“I”

Once she noticed Rika, she raised her head suddenly.

“Ah? W, what is it?”

With agile movements, Alas=Ramus quickly moved from Emi’s arms to behind Emi’s back.

“Oh, oh my? Did I scare her?”

“Ah, I know. This is Alas=Ramus’s and Rika’s first meeting right?”

“Uuuu.....”

Alas=Ramus, hiding behind ‘Mama’s’ back, looked at Rika nervously.

“H, hello!”

Perhaps she was not used to interacting with children, Rika tried to show a slightly stiff smile, and waved at Alas=Ramus who acted like she saw something scary.

However, Alas=Ramus, who seemed to be scared by that smile, quickly pulled her face behind Emi’s back.

“Hey, Alas=Ramus, you should greet people properly, you know? You have to reply ‘Hello’ okay?”

“.....uu.”

With Emi’s persuasion, Alas=Ramus nervously looked up, but the shock from seeing a stranger after just waking up did not seem to have dissipated, and she still looked scared.

And in the next moment----

“Is Alas=Ramus-chan~~normally shy~~?”

“Kya!”

Hearing the sudden voice behind her, Alas=Ramus jumped.

“A, A, Alas=Ramus?”

“Oh, ah, wah?”

Like an escaping rabbit, Alas=Ramus left Emi’s back, and hid behind Rika’s back this time.

“Oh, oh my?”

Rika awkwardly turned back at the small existence hiding behind her, grabbing her blouse.

“.....Older sister.....here?”

“Hm? Hmm?”

Rika, who felt like Alas=Ramus said something, bent down to move her ear closer.

After that, not knowing what Rika heard, a troubled wry smile appeared on her face and she looked towards Emerada.

“She said why is Em-nee chan here?”

“Ah.”

“Eh~~”

After Emi heard this, she looked up at Emerada with a similar expression to Rika, Emerada, who changed back to her usual tone, pouted unhappily.

“Then again, Alas=Ramus did not seem to handle Em very well.”

“How can this be~~is it so seriously bad that she’s willing to hide behind Rika-san’s back, whom she is seeing for the first time~~?”

“Because you spoke too loudly last time and scared her.”

“But~~seeing such a cute child~~of course you’ll feel like shouting~~”

Emerada said this unhappily, after Rika waited for that small hand to calm down, she nervously met her gaze with Alas=Ramus’s.

“Hello?”

“.....lo.”

Only at this moment did Alas=Ramus notice that she was sticking to someone she did not recognise.

However, because Emi did not say anything, she cautiously replied softly in a scared manner.

“Nice to meet you, Alas=Ramus-chan.”

“.....meet you.”

“I am Emi.....uh, Mama’s friend, Suzuki Rika.”

“Zuzuki.....?”

“Alas=Ramus, you should greet Rika-nee san properly okay?”

“Uu, ah, Ri, Rika-nee chan, nice to meet you, hello.”

Perhaps she was nervous, Alas=Ramus’s voice was soft and listless, but she still tried hard to greet Rika.

“Yeah, nice to meet you. Emi, what kind of cute creature is this!”

Rika’s mouth could not help but show a smile.

“No wonder everyone dotes on her so much. Her hand is so small!”

“Auu.”

Rika gently held Alas=Ramus’s hands, and even if she showed an expression of asking Emi for help, Alas=Ramus still allowed Rika to handle her.

“Whether it was before or after, it feels like Emi had a hard time.”

Rika warmly held both of Alas=Ramus’s hands, and said this to Emi while looking at Alas=Ramus.

“If you wish to find someone to complain to in the future, just give me a call. It doesn’t matter whether anything special has happened or not. I will continue looking for new restaurants with good food.”

“.....Rika.”

“Rika-san.....”

“Since it’s a rare chance, why don’t you bring Alas=Ramus-chan along at that time? Alas=Ramus-chan, what do you like to eat?”

“Corn soup and curry.”

“Ooh, not bad, it matches what children would like to eat.”

“And, Chi-nee chan’s karaage.”

“Chi-chan? Ah, does that refer to Chiho? Can she make food which suits children’s palate? How amazing. But there are restaurants with delicious karaage, corn soup and curry. Even though I have thought of some western restarants, but if all of them have to be tasty, it will be a bit difficult. Then again, even though you’re so small, are you able to eat so much?”

After that, Rika did not talk to Emi that much.

However, to Emi, this was enough. Whether Emi was Yusa Emi, or Emilia Justina, Rika was still willing to eat with her just like before.

Not only that, Rika even said she was willing to talk to Emi about various topics. If her friend was willing to offer this, what else could Emi ask for.

“Emilia, you really made a great friend.”

Emerada said this softly. Emi nodded lightly, slightly red around the eyes.

“Ah, even though eating is also important, what are you going to do about your work? You’ll still be staying in Japan for the time being right? About money.....sigh, with Emi’s living habits, you’ll probably still have savings even though you don’t have a job, but the rent for this apartment isn’t cheap right?”

Emi really liked Rika’s personality who would immediately talk about current issues.

“You’re definitely going to get a shock after hearing this, the rent for this room is 50,000 yen per month.”

“Eh?”

After hearing this price, Rika frowned instead.

“D, don’t you feel that it’s strange? From the fact that it’s near a station, and it’s location and size, I thought it would be 100,000 yen at least.....”

When Emi mentioned this to Suzuno before, Suzuno also got a shock from this cheap rent. But as expected of Rika, her friend was very aware of how abnormal this price was in general.

“Yeah, honestly.....an accident happened in this room before.”

“Eh? Seriously?”

Compared to the surprised Rika, Emi waved her hand nonchalantly and said,

“But, if not for the fact that this room had a little defect, I would definitely be unable to work at Docodemo, and even whether I would be able to live properly in Japan would be unconfirmed.”

“Eh?”

“I accumulated many memories in this room. Even though I would live together with father eventually, moving house requires money as well, so it will be some time before I move from here.”

Rika move her gaze towards Emerada who might know something, but the latter shook her head lightly, clueless.

“Sigh, anyway, the rent will unexpectedly not cause any problems. Even though I’m a bit low on funds at the moment, I have some ideas about my new job. After making a call yesterday, I realised that the other party was very shorthanded, so an interview date was arranged immediately. I just need to take a new photo for my resume.”

“Oh! I see, as expected of the Hero. You’ll do things properly when it’s time to act!”

Emi’s bright prospects caused Rika to smile.

“But, why are you low on funds?”

Rika, as a colleague, was able to roughly gauge Emi’s income situation, and considering Emi’s living attitude and rent, it was difficult for her to imagine that Emi will lack money.

“Yeah, actually.....”

Emi told Rika about Maou asking her to pay debts and his reward without leaving any details out.

“Uwah.....”

“Wargh~~”

Expectedly, Rika and Emerada frowned.

“Even if he is the Demon King, he shouldn’t do such things in this situation right?”

“It feels rather regretful~~the Demon King at that time~~does not seem like someone who would do such a thing~~”

The both of them gave stern opinions, but Emi showed a wry smile, and unexpectedly, no anger and disappointment was felt from her.

“Both of you also think so right? I feel the same way too. This does not match that guy (the Demon King’s) style at all.”

““Eh?””

“He definitely thought I will not agree to such a ridiculous request.”

Emi got up, and took out a magazine from the shelf beside the television.

“But, I also have my dignity, so I want to pay the favours I owe with my own power, in addition.....”

While speaking, Emi flipped to the page in the magazine which had a post-it note stuck on it, and passed it to Rika and Emerada.

“If I just played along with his speechcraft just like that, won’t I be oweing him again? So.....”

“E, Emi, this is.....”

After seeing the advertisement on the page with the post-it note, Rika’s eyes widened in surprise.

Emi, who had expected Rika to act in this way, nodded confidently and answered her friend’s question,

“The reason I applied for a job here, was all decided by me.”

Chapter 2: Demon King and Hero, Rigidly Sticking to their own Standpoints

魔王と勇者、立ち位置にこだわらる



The next morning, Ashiya, who walked out of the room because he noticed the sounds of an engine from the road outside the apartment, stood on the common corridor as he noticed the medium sized truck stopping outside.

The storage area of the truck with the logo of a moving company commonly seen on the television advertisements printed on it was already opened, and the professional movers who rode the truck over were already starting to efficiently move the luggage out of the truck.

Suzuno and Nord were currently discussing something with the movers in the yard in front of apartment, but Ashiya's purpose was not with these two people.

Standing next to the two people, a person who looked like a gold plated wine barrel with two legs grown out of it for walking, was the landlady of Villa Rosa Sasazuka, Shiba Miki.

“Then, Nord-san.....this is a new key to room 101. If you have any problems, you can look for Maou-san or Ashiya-san upstairs, or next door, where I live.....”

“I don't remember us accepting the role of a manager!”

Ashiya gathered up his courage, and from the common corridor, shouted down at the landlady who gave an irresponsible suggestion to Nord.

Suzuno, Nord and Shiba, noticing this voice, looked up at Ashiya.

Just like before, as long as Ashiya made eye contact with Shiba, a chill will go down his spine, and even though he could not stand properly, he still had to make things clear today.

“Oh my, Ashiya-san, good day. Nord-san will be officially moving in to room 101 from today onwards, so I was explaining things to him!”

“I’m fine with that, but we are not the managers of this apartment, and not the representatives of the residents! If we are approached every time there is a problem, we will be very troubled!”

Even though it was lacking in force, Ashiya still said this, determined.

Basically, since Suzuno, the second person to move in, Shiba had been irresponsibly saying ‘if you have any problems, look for Maou and Ashiya’.

When Maou and Ashiya first came to Japan, they were helped a lot by Shiba, but there was no reason to let Shiba push the management role to them.

“Please don’t say that. The agent told me everything, until now, as long as any problems occur, Maou-san will represent the residents to gather all opinions and complete various filing procedures.....”

“What do you mean by gather all opinions, in this place, only us and Crestia Bell live here!”

Ashiya walked down the stairs as he continued protesting.

“Isn’t that good! It’s not like all of you don’t know each other, and all of you are comrades with the hometown of Ente Isla right?”

“Who the heck is comrades with them! We are demons, and are totally different from humans, whether in birth or other areas!”

“Even so, all of you are still neighbours living in the same apartment. There should be no need to say such mean things right?”

After Shiba said this in a counselling like manner and avoided Ashiya’s protests as easily as the willow leaf and sent him a glance as if to give him a final blow.

“Uguh!”

With just that, Ashiya’s heart starting beating erratically, and he almost lost consciousness.

“Is, is he alright?”

“Alsiel will become like this once he sees the landlady.”

Nord was alarmed when he saw Ashiya’s obviously abnormal behaviour, as for Suzuno, she explained the already normal situation in a composed manner.

Even if his hand was pressed against his chest and he was sweating, Ashiya still forced himself to adjust his breathing, put his hand against his forehead and shook his head.

“Oh my, you’re strong willed!”

“I, I don’t know what.....you’re saying, but let’s put that aside first. Then again, Landlady-san, isn’t it about time you told us?”

“Told all of you what?”

Ashiya spoke agitatedly to Shiba, who had been smiling since the beginning,

“Which hospital is Urushihara staying at?”

Even though Ashiya shouted with all his might, Shiba’s expression did not change at all.

“I said before, it’s a hospital I am familiar with. If you’re concerned about the hospital fees, as it would be paid by Amane and me, you do not have to worry.....”

“I’m not worried about that kind of thing!”

Ashiya interrupted Shiba’s words.

“The laptop is not in the room as well!”

“The laptop? I don’t think any thievery incidents occurred.....”

“?”

“Ah, I see.”

Shiba and Nord looked confused, only Suzuno nodded like she understood.

“Ooh?”

Ashiya, who temporarily returned to this world because of Suzuno, immediately screamed after Shiba announced the declaration of death, causing Nord to flinch in fright.

“Credit card! I have to cancel Demon King-sama’s credit card! Bell! Lend me your mobile phone! Please! After overcoming that crisis with much difficulty, if this goes on, the Demon King Army will fall apart before it is revived!”

“Calm down, Alsiel! Even if you are the roommate, you would not be able to cancel the card applied under the name of the Demon King!”

“How can this be! De, Demon King-sama just went to work.....w, wait, then again, Urushihara has already been in the hospital for a few days..... oooooohhhhhh?”

“Even though it looks like this now, they’re normally very reliable okay?”

“O, oh.....”

Watching Ashiya shouting in anguish and Suzuno comforting him, Nord was of course unable to completely believe Shiba’s words.

“T, that’s right, as long as I take the necessary documents to the shop, I do not have to wait for Demon King-sama to return.....even one second earlier is good.....I have to quickly get Demon King-sama’s bank account out of Urushihara’s demonic hands.....”

After that, Ashiya walked up the stairs shakily, just like a spirit, returning to room 201.

A short while later, he ran out immediately with a force like he was going to break the door in front of the stairs, and running down the stairs like he had fallen down them, he ran towards the road outside.

“Demon King-saammmaaa!”

Nord and the professional movers could only watch Ashiya shouting and running out in shock.

“Ashiya-san is having a hard time too.”

Shiba sighed as if this had nothing to do with her, and said her thoughts, and in the eyes of Suzuno, who had watched Maou and the other’s lives from a close distance over a long period of time, it was understandable for Ashiya to react this way.

“.....Then, Landlady-dono.”

“What is it?”

Suzuno wait until she could no longer hear Ashiya’s shouts, looked up at Shiba’s large body and asked,

“Regarding the location of the next ‘discussion’.”

“Yeah.”

“That, choosing the hospital Lucifer is staying in, is there any special meaning to it?”

Faced with Suzuno’s sharp tone, Shiba’s expression did not change at all.

After Maou and the others returned from Ente Isla, following Shiba’s suggestion, everyone immediately decided to organize a meeting where they could listen to Shiba’s and Amane’s explanations. Even though the date and location had already been booked, with regards to this ‘meeting’, there were still a few suspicious points.

Firstly, just like what Suzuno said, the location was set at Urushihara’s hospital room.

Basically, the location of the discussion was decided to be there even though they do not know the location of where Urushihara was staying at, and that was a strange thing.

However, as long as they mentioned anything about this ‘meeting’, Chiho would show a depressed expression for unknown reasons.

At the beginning, Suzuno had thought it was her imagination, but after careful observation, she realised that it was not a misunderstanding on her part, there was obvious uneasiness mixed into Chiho’s gaze.

Since Chiho herself did not say anything, it must be that Chiho had already heard something from Amane and Shiba when Suzuno and the others went to Ente Isla.

Therefore Suzuno tried to get some information from Shiba.

“There’s no special reason. I just do not wish to create too much burden for Urushihara-san who is staying in the hospital.”

“I feel that it would be better for that useless angel to shoulder a little burden.....”

As expected, Shiba was not so naïve to disclose any information which this kind of simple probing of information. Suzuno immediately gave up with a shrug of shoulders. And at this moment----

“Hey! Father, Suzuno! Hm? Is that Ashiya? Where is he going in such a rush?”

A voice calling out to the both of them was heard from the road outside.

“Oh.....”

“Oh my, Acies.”

Looking in the direction of the voice, the ‘younger sister’ of Alas=Ramus could be seen, the other personification of the ‘Yesod’ fragment, and also the core of the other ‘Better Half’, Acies=Ara, was walking in this direction, waving her hand.

“I came over when I noticed that the luggage was brought over.”

“Yeah, I’m sorry. Shiba-san as well, taking care of Acies.”

Nord nodded at Acies’s words, then lowered his head and thanked Shiba.

“It is not a problem at all. My house has many empty rooms in the first place, Acies talks to me often as well.”

After Maou and the others returned from Ente Isla, Acies’s position became unclear because of the reunion between Nord and Emi.

Originally, Acies was living in Japan with the identity of Nord’s daughter and the name ‘Tsubasa’, but since Nord’s actual daughter appeared, she had to be considerate to Emi.

Even if chasing Acies away just like that was a bit too heartless, with her overly honest personality, it would be worrying if she lived by herself.

Even though it would be fine for her to live together with Maou, whom she is merged with, doing so would definitely cause problems.

Unlike Alas=Ramus, Acies’s appearance was that of a grown girl, if she stayed in Maou and Ashiya’s room, it would cause many inconveniences for the males.

Considering that Urushihara would come back sooner or later, just looking at the numbers, it would be too unrealistic for Acies to stay at the Demon Fortress.

Even if Suzuno volunteered to become Acies’s guardian, as Suzuno still had her job as Nord’s bodyguard, they could not increase her burden further.

Because a consensus could not be reached, to the point that everyone, forgetting for the moment that Acies could not be separated from Maou

beyond a certain distance, suggested that she live at Emi's home since she was Alas=Ramus's younger sister, the one who unexpectedly interrupted at this moment, was the landlady Shiba.

What surprised everyone was----

“It's a temporary measure anyway, and I also wish to try living together with her.”

After Shiba said this, she brought Acies home in a half-forceful manner.

This happened one week ago.

After Acies stayed at the place for two days, she showcased her fearless nature, disregardedly addressed Shiba as Mi-chan, and lived a comfortable life.

“For your luggage, I have already asked Bell-san to help pack them properly, you might as well check them.”

Nord led Acies into room 101.

Even though no one expected that Nord would be in Japan, but the old home of Nord and Acies was also located in an unexpected place. They lived in a flat not much different from Villa Rosa Sasazuka, and other than furniture, electronics and clothes, they did not seem to have much else, so it was not too much work to pack everything.

Acies could not go to the old home because she was merged with Maou, so all her personal belongings were packed by Suzuno.....

“Hm? Is something wrong?”

Suzuno discovered that Acies, coming out with a cardboard box in her arms, was frowning, and asked this.

“Erhm, Maou, is he working today as well?”

Acies looked up towards the second floor in a troubled manner.

“Yeah, it should be like that. Is anything missing?”

Could it be that something was left out in the luggage when moving house?

After Acies took one look at the cardboard box which was not considered large, she put her palms together guiltily and told Suzuno,

“Yeah. Sorry. I should have told you beforehand. Suzuno, father, I’m sorry, can I ask both of you to help me get it?”

Nord and Acies’s old home was at a distance such that Acies, merged with Maou, would not be able to go there alone.

“Uh, I’m the one who should be sorry. It looks like I have missed it out. What kind of item is it? As long as you tell me directly.....”

“It would be troublesome if a mistake is made again, wouldn’t it be better for Acies to go herself?”

“Ugh, Landlady-dono. Actually Acies and the Demon King.....”

Just as Suzuno planned to talk about the both of them being unable to be separated over a certain distance, Shiba shook her head lightly.

“Because Alas=Ramus is still a child, she will return into the body of her merged partner. Right now, Acies does not have any Yadorigi, so there should not be any problems.”

“Yadorigi? What is that?”

Suzuno was confused about the term she was hearing for the first time.

“With me, it can also be.....oh my.”

Shiba looked up like she noticed something.

After Acies and Suzuno also looked over, they noticed Emi carrying Alas=Ramus, and a petite female wearing a beret looking in their direction.

“Emilia and.....Emerada-dono?”

After Suzuno got a surprise at the person standing beside Emi, she ran over with a smile.

“Hello everyone~~it’s been a while~~”

Emerada took off her beret and greeted everyone present.

“How surprising. When did you come to Japan?”

“Since yesterday~~I even threw away my reservations and stayed overnight at Emilia’s home~~”

“I see. But for both of you to come here so early, is anything the matter?”

“I have something to do nearby in the evening. But it’s really a coincidence, we came to see Shiba-san, so we came here early.”

After Emi greeted Shiba, she stood in front of Shiba together with Emerada.

“Hello, Shiba-san. I came here today to ask a favour from you.”

“Specially looking for me, is anything the matter? This lady, is also a guest from Ente Isla right? Even though it seems like this is not the first time we met.”

Shiba pressed down on her dress so it would not reflect the light and looked towards Emerada.

Emerada, under Shiba’s stare, placed her beret at her chest and bowed deeply.

“My name is Emerada Etuva. As you have seen, I come from Ente Isla. During the commotion which occurred in our world, I have seen you once from afar.”

Emerada raised her head after saying this, she squinted her eyes a bit, and without the normal relaxed aura, she gazed back at Shiba with a determined stare.

“Looks like you’re a person with great power. The same as Kamazuki-san.....no, above her.”

Shiba seemed to have felt something from Emerada’s gaze, and reduced her volume slightly.

“Then, you said you have something to request of me?”

“With regards to the ‘meeting’ which would be held three days later, I hope you can allow me to attend as well.”

“Uhm.....”

Alas=Ramus squirmed in Emi’s arms, and Emerada also looked at Alas=Ramus because of this.

“I heard this from Emilia. It seems like Shiba-san will talk about ‘the creation of the world’.....about the Sephirah and the Tree of Life which are only seen as legends written in the bible in Ente Isla. Please allow me to attend this meeting.”

“Can I confirm something first? Why do you wish to attend?”

Shiba’s tone held a trace of wariness.

However Emerada replied Shiba’s question without hesitation.

“In order to share the burden.”

With the prompting of Shiba who did not understand the meaning behind this sentence, Emerada looked at Alas=Ramus, Emi and Suzuno in turn, then faced Shiba once again,

“Only by knowing the same facts as Emilia and Bell-san, together with them, I will be able to carry the weight of the burden which our world is destined to carry from the beginning.”

Emerada looked at Alas=Ramus once again.

“Ente Isla, in the past, had passed the burden which should be carried by the whole world to Emi alone, and with her in this situation, they abandoned her. I will definitely not allow this to happen again. I came here today, hoping that this time, I will be able to support her who has taken the step towards finding out the truth. I may look like this, but I am a high ranking official in Ente Isla. If the truth which Emilia knows has to be carried by the whole world, my position will allow me to publicise this to the world. The position I am in will allow many people to think about this truth together. So.....”

Emerada spoke with a passionate voice in an agitated manner, which would normally be unimaginable from her usual self, Shiba nodded as she carefully listened to Emerada speak.

“I understand your thoughts now.”

Without being aware of it, Shiba had already relaxed her wary attitude and nodded in satisfaction.

“Yusa-san and Kamazuki-san are already people from that world (Ente Isla). There will not be any problems even with one more person. I’m already very

clear that you're not the type of person who will abuse the information I will provide. If time allows, please come together with Yusa-san."

".....I'm very grateful."

Emerada bowed deeply to Shiba once again.

"Even though I don't really understand, but things have wrapped up nicely in the end?"

Even though she knew that the conversation between the both of them have ended, Acies, who did not think about the contents of the conversation at all, interrupted at a perfect time in an airheaded manner, causing everyone present to laugh.

"There seem to be a lot of guests today."

"Ah, good morning, father."

"Good morning, Emilia. This is?"

Nord looked at Emerada and asked Emi.

"Ah, I have not introduced her to father yet?"

"Because your father has not regained consciousness yet~~"

Once the tension was released, Emerada regained her usual tone of voice, and greeted Nord once again.

Emi surveyed the interior of Villa Rosa Sasazuka room 101 once again. Even though the basic layout within was naturally similar to room 201, but once the view outside the window was different, the impression the room gave would change greatly.

The luggage moved over was originally not a lot, so most of them had already been unpacked, all the household items matched the room well, as if they had already been in the room for a few days.

“Bell, my father’s matters caused you a lot of trouble. Even though these things should have been done by me.”

Emi bowed to Suzuno once again, Suzuno shook her head like it was nothing much.

“My movements are not that restricted anyway, so you don’t have to mind that much.”

“Celestial Globe?”

Emi and Suzuno looked up because of Nord’s voice.

“Ah, now that I think about it, I did buy that kind of thing before. Where did I keep it?”

“Yeah, I treated it as an important thing, so I hid it in a hard to find place in the room. Probably because of that, father and Suzuno did not notice it.”

Acies said guiltily.

“But something like a planetarium, can it be hidden? I remember this kind of thing is very big right?”

Emi drew a shape in the air with her hands, Emerada asked in confusion,

“What is a celestial globe~~?”

“A tool to see stars.....no, it seems a bit different. How should I say it.”

“See stars~~? Is it something like a telescope~~?”

“No. It’s not looking at the stars directly.....erhm.....how should I explain it.”

Just as Emi was troubled on how to explain ‘Celestial Globe’, Suzuno offered some assistance.

“It’ll be understood by saying planetarium right? I think Emerada-dono should have used it before.”

“Oh~~I see~~it’s a tool to show the trajectory of planets right~~?”

Suzuno’s words caused Emerada to become enlightened, but it was Emi who had become confused.

“I feel that this sentence is harder to understand.”

Suzuno ignored Emi’s rebuttal and continued to explain.

“Even though the usage and meaning is the same as a planetarium, but in the normal conversations in Japan, a ‘celestial globe’ refers to using an optical device to project a model of space onto a wall or roof of a room, an equipment to appreciate such observations.”

“It, it feels more and more complicated.....”

“It’s easy to understand as long as you imagine a black object with a strong light source within the center of a hemispherical room. As long as the domed room is totally dark, and there are holes on the black orb for the light to shine out from, then star-like light dots will be projected onto the roof of the domed room.”

“I see~~how interesting~~but~~is that something which is so small that people will overlook it~~hearing it’s description~~it feels like it should be a big object~~”

“It’s not like that! That thing is very thin!”

“Very thin?”

“Ah, I remember now, it’s the type where various parts are assembled together.”

Nord, who finally remembered, nodded and said this.

“That celestial globe is something assembled from cardboard folded and bent according to instructions. I remember it was called paper.....paper mo.....”

“Paper model?”

“Yes, that’s it. It seemed to be something included in a book, because Acies wanted it no matter what, so a few consecutive issues were bought. The very first issue came with a stand about this big.”

Nord used his hands to show a square about 10cm in size.

“As for the few issues afterwards, it came with paper models which showed the stars in different seasons and instructions manuals.”

“I occasionally see similar advertisements. Every issue will come with different parts, and a sports car can be made after collecting everything, something like that.”

Acies nodded vigorously to agree with Emi’s words.

“But because there are a few parts, dust will be accumulated if it’s always assembled. So I took it apart and put it into a folder, and hid it under the panel of the closet. When I opened the box just now and discovered that only the stand was inside, I remembered that I forgot to tell all of you beforehand.”

“Underneath the panel of the closet huh. Then again, I did forget to carefully check that place. Because that panel was part of the room in the first place.....”

Nord placed a hand against his forehead like he had miscalculated.

“And I followed the rules and hid it in the newspaper layer underneath the panel!”

Not considered the usage of following the rules and the appropriateness of treating that as a place for hiding paper products, that thing was that important to Acies.

“Acies is unable to leave a certain distance away from him right.”

After Nord said this, he got up slowly.

“It can’t be helped, I’ll go get it. Bell-san, I’m sorry, but can I trouble you for this?”

※

“The train is really fast~~! Uuuu~~”

“Hey, Em, don’t shout so excitedly in the train.”

“I’m not~~uuuu~~”

Even though she pouted because of Emi’s reminder, Emerada, who could not settle down, knelt on the seat and pressed against the window like a child, savouring the scenery passing outside the window.

“It can’t be helped. When I took the train for the first time, I was surprised because of the speed and other things.”

Suzuno watched Emerada who was acting that way in a nostalgic manner.

“I’m sorry, everyone, making all of you spend so much effort because of Acies.”

Nord, sitting beside Suzuno, offered his apologies in a soft voice.

To go to Nord and Acies’s old home, they need to take the train from Sasazuka for twenty minutes to Chofu station, then take a bus journey of twenty minutes to get to bus stop in front of Tenmondai-mae.

Depending on the time for the transfer, a one way journey will take around one hour, ever since Nord returned to Japan from Ente Isla, Suzuno will become his guard when he goes out.

Even though there will not be any substantial danger at the moment, this was still a safety measure in the end.

Since it was a rare chance for Emerada to come to Japan for work, and Emi also wanted to examine her father’s tracks in Japan, the group of people went to get the object Acies had forgotten with great vigour.

“But~~why did Nord-san choose to stay at the place we are going to go to next~~?”

Emerada asked Nord while watching the scenery pass by the window.

“I heard that Nord-san~~actually came to Japan earlier than Emilia~~?”

“Now that I think about it, I have never told Emerada-dono about this part.”

Suzuno turned to Emerada in realization.

“That’s true~~I had wanted to say that it’s fine as long as I ask Emilia~~I’ve been looking for a chance since yesterday.....if it’s convenient~~can you tell me~~?”

“Actually it’s fine for you to ask me directly. But, once I think that I might have walked past Father on the streets of Tokyo.....without noticing it at all, it’s a complicated feeling.”

Once Emi looked towards Nord, the latter frowned as if someone had dug up an old wound.

“I’m also curious about why Demon King Satan and Demon General Alsiel, these highly ranked members of the Demon King Army, would live in Sasazuka. Anyway, this has a little relation to why Emilia would not allow me to help pay the favours to the Demon King and the others.”

Emi pouted because of this, Nord also squinted slightly and started talking.

Actually the time I spent in Japan was not that long.

I think it’s only a few months difference from Emilia, the Demon King and the others.

After entrusting the young Emilia to the priests of the Church, I, together with the royal army and the villagers, fought in order to protect the village from the hands of Lucifer’s army.

At that time, my wife had already entrusted the fragment of 'Yesod' to me, and even if it was rudimentary, I have also learn the skill of using a sword.

Even though I, not a socerer and just a simple farmer, did not have much power, at the point of time, I seriously made up my mind to step up to fight to protect the village and the fields.

Because I have made a promise with Emilia and my wife. We will definitely live together in that home once again in future.

However, the result was as everyone knew, the holy sword which was only sharpened before going into battle was not a match for the demons of the Demon King Army, many villagers and I were chased out of the village.

It was shameful, the number of demons which were sent by Lucifer's army to attack Sloan village was less than ten.

After that, with an identity as a war refugee, I wandered around various lands for two years.

Emerada-san should know as well, the communication network in the whole continent had collapsed, even if I write a letter to Saint Ignord or the Church, the chances of it being delivered was very low.

I, who had become displaced because the village was burnt and destroyed, would often not even have the money to write letters, I didn't even have the methods to contact Emilia, who should be in Saint Ignord, to tell her that I was safe.

I would finally be able to send a letter every few months, but perhaps it was lost in delivery, or deliberately hid by the Church, they had never reached Emilia's hands. That was to be expected. If she did receive it, then she would know that I'm still alive.

After a period of time, Saint Ignord also fell into the hands of Lucifer's army, and I passed two years under the rule of Lucifer's army just like that. In other words, during the time Saint Ignord was occupied, I was only able to live a miserable life in a corner of the capital.

The situation started to change after Lucifer's army was defeated and Saint Ignord was liberated.

Emilia's name became widely known amongst the citizens and war refugees, this happened not long after that.

When Saint Ignord's capital Irihem was liberated, only the information that an archbishop and elite knights from the Church defeated Lucifer was known, only one month later during the battle for the liberation of the Northern Continent, the people started to know that the Church Knight was a female with the name Emilia.

Emilia had grown up splendidly, and obtained the power to vanquish evil just like what my wife said, causing me to feel very touched.

However, as a war refugee, I was unable to catch up to Emilia, who was defeating the Demon King Army as easily as breaking bamboo.

Even though I tried to make contact with the Church a few times, in that period where humans started to see hope, the citizens viewed the Hero and

the others in expectation and with admiration, borrowing a situation in Japan, their popularity was a few hundred times higher than a sports athlete or idol.

After all, the thousands and millions of humans in the world, want to talk or offer prayers to Emilia and the others.

Amongst them, they are also people who pretend to be their family or relatives, and in reality I was also treated as a liar. Even if I used the name of Emilia's hometown Sloan, there was not much effect.

Even if I was acknowledged as an actual family member, travelling around the world, Emilia would probably be unable to receive letters.

Just as I was in Saint Ignord and did not know what to do, news of Malacoda in the Southern Continent getting defeated started to spread across the world. The whole world, started to move at one go in that moment.

The movements and communications of the humans which were restricted instantly became smooth, the world economy also started to revive because of the counterattack against the Demon King Army, therefore at the same time, the various nations started to actively compensate the war refugees.

I thought this at this time.

Since I am unable to chase after Emilia, I'll just have to wait at a place where she will definitely appear at.

Luckily, I received compensation payments at that time, and the permit to return to Sloan village.

Even though the village became dilapidated, the foundation of the houses seemed to be left behind, in addition there were also a few fields and lands which can be reused after some preparations.

Regretably, I was the only person to return to the village at that time.

The survivors from the village were few to begin with, and some people, in their long lives as refugees, found a new way of living in new lands, some refused to return to their hometown, and some people even died during the rule under Lucifer's army, everybody's situation was different.

Even if they wanted to return to their hometown, most of the people decided to rebuild their lives in the nearby Cassius City.

Thinking about it carefully, allowing many people to enter Cassius City should also be a strategy from the Church, but anyway, at that time, I strongly believed that Emilia will exorcise the Demon King Army.

If so, as long as I wait in the village, Emilia will definitely come back.

However, a few days after that, an unexpected person visited the village.

In a certain way, the shock resulting from this was greater than Emilia returning.

Entrusting the young Emilia in my care, suddenly disappearing one day, my wife.....Lailah appeared.

With the arrival of the train at the underground platform of Chofu station, the four of them got off the train.

As the long escalator reached the surface, there was a transfer station on the right side.

“When I first came here, the train station building at Chofu was still on the surface. In such a short time, this place has changed a lot.”

Nord said while looking at the transfer station.

“We need to go to that station sign.”

Then, he took the lead and walked to the Keio bus stop to queue.

In the route diagram labelled as ‘□ (Takeshi)91’, there was a bus stop called ‘Tenmondai-mae’.

“To go to Tenmondai-mae from Chofu station, we can just take this bus, but if we want to go to Chofu station from Tendonmai-mae, it would be faster to walk to the previous stop Chofu-Ginza stop. Because traffic jams occur often at the intersection.”

Even though it felt strange for the father of the Hero from another world to lead the way in Chofu, the people following were all people not from this world, making it more ironic.

“When I came to Japan, I stayed at Shinjuku in the beginning.”

“Actually living so close by.....”

Even Suzuno, who had roughly heard about Nord's situation, could not help but groan at this fact.

During this period of almost one year, Emi and Nord did not know that they were living a 20 minute train ride away from one another, living alone in Tokyo.

“After living in Shinjuku for some time, Acies suddenly awakened. She did not have a toddler stage like Alas=Ramus, and was that appearance when she was born. Because she wanted to live in a place where stars could be seen no matter what, I sought advice from a man who looked out for me since I came to Japan, and with his recommendation, and moved to the area with an observatory, where we are going to next.”

Even the last name ‘Satou’ which Nord occasionally had to use to introduce himself, was borrowed from that man.

But with this, the group naturally had questions about how Nord lived in Japan.

Even though Emi, Maou and Ashiya worked hard in a unfamiliar foreign world, the reason why they were able to overcome the language barrier was mainly because they relied on demonic magic and holy magic.

Nord, as a farmer, how did he overcome this obstacle, and how did he obtain food enough to feed himself?

“That's simple.”

Nord got on the bus stop which arrived, accepted the ticket with practiced movements, and said this as he walked to the seats at the back.

“My Japanese, was taught by my wife.”

Just as I was weeding the dilapidated fields in order to restore the dilapidated village and fields, Lailah appeared in front of me.

I did not even have to time to doubt my eyesight, and she spoke,

“I did not think that things will turn out like this.”

I did not know what this sentence meant.

However before I could ask questions, Lailah continued speaking,

“Just in case, we have to grow your holy sword. We have to rush to the land of our memories as quickly as possible.”

However at this time, this was only a sword only had a mysterious power, under the evening sun, I followed Lailah’s instructions and summoned the holy sword, planning to ask her what is going on.

Even that this current time, Emilia was fighting against the Demon King Army. My power might be able to help Emilia, and in addition, since Lailah was an angel, couldn’t she be able to help Emilia?

Lailah’s answer also made me feel that the main point was missed.

“I don’t know why things have become like this. In the past, Satan was a kind child who knew about heartache.”

I felt that this point was strange.

Satan was the name of the Demon King who invaded Ente Isla. But from the tone of Lailah’s voice, she seemed to have known Satan since a long time ago.

“I’m sorry, always making things so hard for you. I will tell you the things which I can tell you right now, so, right now, quickly make your way to the land of our memories.”

In this confusing situation, I took Lailah’s hand and with her, flew from Sloan village to the mountain in the east.

In a place a half day journey from Sloan village, there was a mountain which had become a hunting area, during the time I lived together with Lailah, it was just a normal mountain range which had not been developed.

In the place halfway up the mountain on the south side, there is a piece of land which jutted out like a stage.

The younger me and Lailah liked that place a lot, we build a small hut there as a lodge, and frequently holidayed there during the slow agricultural periods.

Simply put, it was a secret lodge belonging to the both of us. Lailah invited me to the place filled with memories.

.....Emilia, why are you showing such an unhappy expression once I mentioned the mountain.

We called that place Star Sky Balcony.

.....Emerada-san, why did you have to emit such a sound of excitement? Did I say something strange?

After arriving at the Star Sky Balcony, Lailah let the 'Yesod' fragment separate from me.

She planted the small fragment which could fit into the palm of her hand into the ground in the corner of the balcony which could receive the most sunlight.

Until now, I did not know the meaning behind that action.

Or rather even if she did explain it to me, I still could not understand it.

After that, Lailah told me many things.

The meaning of entrusting the 'Yesod' fragment to me and the just born Emilia.

The truth behind the Sephirah, Tree of Life and angels recorded in the bible.

The true identity of the leader of the Demon King Army threatening the whole of Ente Isla.

Heaven's taboo, the legend of the 'Ancient Demon King Satan's Disaster'.

All of these were things which could not be understood after hearing them only once.

The most important thing was Lailah appeared very anxious.

Even though I believed in Lailah, rather than making me understand these things which are hard to digest, Lailah seemed more anxious in teaching me a particular language.

That's right, it was Japanese.

Emerada-san, this is what happened. At that time, Lailah already knew things about this world.

I think that at a very early stage, Lailah had planned for me and Emilia..... for the 'Yesod' fragment to hide in a place which Heaven cannot interfere with.

She seemed to have spent a long time making these preparations.

To me, compared to knowing about problems which occurred in a world which I do not know about, I was more worried about Emilia who was fighting in Ente Isla, but my wife said if anything goes wrong, she will step in and protect Emilia, so I trusted my wife's words, accepting her arrangements.

Hm? You're asking why I trust Lailah so easily?

Why huh, it's a long story.....some things happened when I met Lailah, so I knew she was an angel from the beginning.

From the time I knew Lailah, until Emilia was born, until the time Lailah left my side, many situations occurred.

For example even though Lailah was an angel with strong power, no matter what the situation, she would not use that power.

For example the temperature in summer of a certain year was much lower than the previous years, causing an unavoidable bad harvest.

At that time I had asked Lailah if she could use her power to save the village's wheat.

Lailah replied,

“Even if we forcefully twist the state of nature, a backlash will happen one day. Do you want me to become a real angel?”

Not only that time, Lailah frequently made me feel that she disliked the fact that she became an angel.

After that, I kept sternly reminding myself not to make contact with Lailah's hidden power.

Once, Lailah wore the old clothes I bought from a travelling merchant, full of smiles. She really liked the fact that she was slowly becoming just like the wives from the nearby farming families.

She let her beautiful hands crack because of the frosty winters, hurt herself from farmwork, and even stuck her hands into a pile of fertilizer emitting rotten smells without any hesitation.

Our lives were not just filled with happy things. And we had gotten into conflict more than a few times.

However, I have never doubted her heart. There was no need to do so at all.

This matter of believing my wife, there's no reason to explain it...

Let's talk about the day Emilia was born.

Lailah's delivery was not smooth, to the point that I was surprised that such a slender body was able to produce such loud screams.

My concern did not help at all.

If she knew I revealed this, she would definitely be angry afterwards, even though Lailah insisted that 'I have never said such a thing', the village midwife and I did hear Lailah say this when she was tolerating the pain of a difficult birth----

“Right now, I really hate those seagulls flying leisurely in the whole world with all my might!”

It's very strange right?

I have never seen the sea before, so even if I heard her say this, I did not have any special thoughts about this. But at that time I accidentally laughed out loud, and just like that, I was kicked out of the room by Lailah.

After a period of time, when I rushed back after hearing cries of a baby, Lailah was already hugging Emilia and crying.

She seemed to be having a crying competition with the newly born Emilia, causing me to talk to her while being confused on what to do.

However, Lailah said to me with a teary expression,

“Thank you. Like this, I am now a person of this world.”

Only until 15 years later when I returned to Star Sky Balcony, I vaguely understood the meaning behind this sentence.

After we reunited after 15 years, Lailah said to me----

I and the citizens of Heaven, are not the angels mentioned in the bible.

Even though they will be called angels in order to avoid the inconveniences, according to Lailah, angels are actually a group of thieves, and planned to steal the god which should have been born in Ente Isla.

They are the criminal group who plans to steal the future god from the hands of the people of Ente Isla for their own prosperity.

Lailah hated her own identity as an angel, and the actions of her own people.

She believed that taking root in the land and obtaining the joy of being alive by working hard to live in a limited amount of time was the true way of living.

But, if Heaven continued on just like this, in the near future, something bad will definitely happen to the people of Ente Isla.

She said that this had to be stopped no matter what.

However the people who obstructed Lailah's plan had separated our family in the past before.

The first autumn after Emilia was born.

That night, Lailah showed the similar appearance she was in when she met me for the first time.....the appearance of an angel.

I did not even have time to ask why she restored the appearance which she hated so much, Lailah passed Emilia and I a purple crystal shard.

Naturally, that was the fragment of 'Yesod'.

"I'm hoping that you, who received me like a human from this world, would accept this."

Lailah said this.

Even though I asked her what was going on, Lailah could only shake her head in reply.

“The world will be enveloped in ‘evil’ sooner or later, and our child has the power to exorcise them. Right now, I have to protect that power.”

Now that I think about it, the ‘evil’ Lailah mentioned might not refer to the Demon King Army, but another bigger evil.

“In order to protect your’s and Emilia’s future, I cannot be caught here. So, please allow me to leave now.”

I have never suspected Lailah’s sincerity and love.

Even though I naturally did not want to separate from her at that time. But since something happened which caused Lailah to make this judgement, I could only follow along with her judgement.

“You must come back. I will definitely always wait for you.”

I told Lailah this.

Lailah bowed her head deeply to me, letting the purple crystal merge with our bodies.

Just like snow melting in the palm of one’s hand, the fragment in my hand dissolved and disappeared without any feeling.

“I have already asked the fragments to protect both of you. I’m sorry, saying such selfish things, but, I will definitely come back.”

After Lailah said this, she left us.

I could only watch her fly into the sky.

When Lailah's light disappeared into the sky in the east, other lights similar to Lailah appeared, and moved from west to east like they were chasing Lailah.

At that moment, a mysterious thing happened.

Just as the lights chasing Lailah flew toward the eastern sky, that holy sword suddenly appeared in my hand.

Even though its appearance did not look that reliable, I immediately knew that I was the power of the crystal which Lailah entrusted to me.

The sword was shivering slightly like it was wary of the lights in the sky.

I only walked home after the lights in the sky disappeared, and after that I discovered that in Emilia's small hands, she was holding a cross like object like she was praying.

That was probably the first stage of the appearance of the 'Evolving Holy Sword, One Wing (Better Half)' which Emilia uses.

After some time, the sword and the cross turned into light orbs and disappeared into our bodies.

I did not feel like I was carrying some huge destiny.

I just wanted to protect Emilia. In order for Lailah to be able to live the same life as before when she finished her battle and returns, I have to protect this home. I swore this with determination.

But after that, until the invasion of the Demon King Army, Lailah did not return, and Emilia had never cried because she missed her mother.

I think, it's probably because the power of the fragment, wrapped around Emilia's heart.

“Oh, we reached Tenmondai-mae.”

After seeing the bus display the next stop, Nord pressed the button to stop the bus in a practiced manner.

Then after looking toward Suzuno and the others, who sat next to him, he asked casually,

“Hm, is anything wrong?”

“It, it's nothing.”

Suzuno's lips became a thin line and she looked in a random direction.

“.....Seriously.....”

Emi also mumbled with a lowered head with a slightly reddened stony expression.

“Even though I know that these are important things~~”

Emerada was grinning for unknown reasons, and was squirmed with both her hands against her cheeks.

“How should I say this~~erhm~~”

The bus stopped quickly at the Tenmondai-mae stop.

Even though Nord did not quite understand, he still got up from his seat, and dropped change and the ticket into the fee box with practiced movements.



Suzuno and Emerada also followed slowly behind, looking at each other in embarrassment, as for Emi, it seemed like she was holding something in and tried her best not to face the both of them.

“It feels like~~thanks for the service~~”

“Hm?”

Not knowing if the Emerada’s intentions were conveyed, Nord got off the bus with a hard to understand expression.

The three people following behind, even though they knew it was information needed to understand the situation they were dragged into, after hearing Nord’s explanation mixed with a good ratio of stories from this passionate youth with Lailah, it felt as if they have lost sight of something important.

“Fu.....the heater on the bus is really strong, yeah.”

After the bus left, Suzuno breathed deeply like she wanted to exhale all the pent up air within her, and fanned herself with her hand.

“Then~~after you reunited with Lailah-san~~how did you go from the Star Sky Balcony to Mikata~~?”

“So that place had this kind of name.....it feels complicated.”

Emerada directly said the name which felt a little embarrassing, and after Emi heard it, she blushed again and lowered her head, as for Nord and nodded with force and answered,

“Let’s walk and talk. Even though Bell-san and Emilia have come here many times.....but anyway, it’s this way.”

Nord pressed Emerada on and started on the topic again.

Lailah, who reunited after 15 years, seemed to want to hide me and my fragment as soon as possible.

And the place she had chosen was not Ente Isla, but this earth.

Even though I said I learned the language from Lailah, but it was not learned from textbooks starting with the vocabulary.

Lailah first used Idea Link to transmit most of the knowledge to me, so after that only a few days of practical training will be needed.

Thanks to that, even though I still occasionally use the wrong words when speaking Japanese, it’s not like I was unable to communicate at all.

Lailah spoke about the reason she was anxious, saying that it was greatly related to Emilia’s many activities as the Hero and the invasion of the Demon King Army.

The holy sword which Emilia held and the Evil Repelling Armour she wore, just like my holy sword, were produced from the core of the ‘Yesod’ fragment.

It was said that this reaction could be detected by Heaven.

Until now, Lailah seemed to be entrusting the fragments to people in various places in the world, and then those places were about to be discovered, she would use the fragments she had to draw the pursuers away.

What surprised me was that this plan had been continuously implemented for a few hundred years , before I was born.

However, the power Emilia had was really too strong, so she could not shield it at all.

Because there might be pursuers setting their sights on Emilia's holy sword, just to be safe, she hoped I can escape to a foreign world. I think that was what she meant.

Naturally I had questions as well, what can be done if the pursuers make their move against Emilia?

Lailah replied.

She will protect our daughter even if she had to risk her life.

From my standpoint, Lailah and Emilia are irreplaceable existences. So I naturally did not want to see their lives in danger. But since Lailah, with intelligence surpassing humans, had such determination, I had nothing to say to this.

And, I trust Lailah. So I respected her will and acted according to her instructions.

Naturally, what happened afterwards was hard.

It was not just language I had to remember, what needed to be learned the most was things related to money.

Before actually seeing an ATM, I completely did not understand this system which could be found anywhere which allowed a person's money to be taken without going through humans.

It was the same with the existence of paper notes. I took a lot of effort to understand that this thing which was something like documentation and not considered gold, silver or bronze or other metals actually had more value than a gold coin.

A notebook called a passport which could prove one's identity, as well as a bank account and bank book, those were things which Lailah passed to me at that time.

That was the first time I felt uneasy. What did she want me to do next?

Because I was hastily stuffed with a bunch of information about a world I did not know about, during the process, I got into a quarrel with her which was delayed by 15 years.

In the end, because it felt very nostalgic halfway through the quarrel, so we could not continue quarrelling afterwards.....what's wrong, Emilia, what kind of expression is that?

Ah, yeah, you want me to continue talking?

Then, a few days later, Lailah dug out the fragment which she had buried earlier and merged it with me once again.

According to Lailah, that day happened to be the day Alsiel retreated from the Eastern Continent because he lost to Emilia.

“I had wanted to spend a few more days for her to be born here.”

After Lailah said this, she held my hand and said.

“I’m sorry, acting in such a stubborn and reckless manner. But, please trust me.”

I replied, I have never doubted you.

After Lailah showed a smile as beautiful as the ones 15 years ago, she looked up at the sky.

After I followed suit and looked up, I realised that an angel had appeared there.

That was an angel with the appearance of a petite man holding a huge scythe.

I thought, perhaps this angel was the one who chased Lailah 15 years ago, the true identity behind that light which disappeared in the eastern sky.

That angel was only similar to Lailah in the white wings and hair colour, his gaze was very cold.

But after seeing that angel, I suddenly lost consciousness.

When I woke up, I was already in Shinjuku.....more accurately it was a place a short distance away from Yoyogi, anyway I had fallen into an apartment in Japan.

I descended into panic. Even though Lailah told me this beforehand, once I walked out of the room, I froze because I was faced with smells I never smelt before, sounds I never heard before, and lights which I never seen before.

Even if Lailah did tell me what I should do after I came to this nation, but in reality, I was only able to go out after three days.

I was very scared, scared of the unknown world and unknown humans.

After the prepared food had all been eaten, I had no choice but to go out, and completed my first shopping purchase in a convenience store.

Until now, I still remember very vividly, the instant I discovered that the bread I bought back with 100 yen was so delicious that it was so different from the ryewheat bread in Ente Isla.

I thought, I had really come to an amazing place.

After that, I spent a week familiarising myself with the environment around the apartment, learning the economic activities needed for day to day living, then started to carry out what Lailah wanted me to do.

That was taking a walk.

Yoyogi Park was within walking range from the apartment, I will take a walk there everyday, look up at the sky, smell the trees and even lay on the soil.

Lailah said, this was related to nurturing the fragment.

It was only until a certain morning after continuously taking walks for about 2 months did I understand the sentence of nurturing the fragment, at that time, the holy sword suddenly appeared and became a person.

That's right, Acies was born.

I was very anxious. Acies, who looked like a girl around 10 plus years old, knew a certain standard of Japanese since the beginning.

She also knew I was someone related to Lailah, so it wasn't difficult to communicate.

However, unexpectedly, problems still occurred.

Acies's appetite was very huge.

Ever since Acies was born, the money Lailah prepared beforehand started to deplete at an exponential rate.

Ever though there was still a sizable amount of money left, since I did not know how long I have to live together with Acies, it cannot be unnecessarily wasted. It would be too late to handle things when the savings hit rock bottom.

Therefore, I started to find a job.

Thanks to the war refugee life I led in Saint Ignord, I was confident that I could do many kinds of work.

During this period when I started to do odd jobs, I met the man with the last name Satou.

Because of Satou, I knew that the stamp on the passport which I had was called a work permit.

Because of that, I knew that as long as I planned to do so, I can freely work in Japan.

Even though Satou is a normal Japanese person, because of his special experiences, he is a man who knows everything.

I also learned many things about Japan from him.

Hm? Oh, you're asking why I wanted to borrow his last name?

It's simply for the sake of living with Acies as family, and avoiding the suspicions of others.

Naturally, I could not use my fake name when looking for work. My actual name was also used for my bank account.

But I asked everyone around me to treat it as my nickname. Even though I'm a bit reluctant, considering the reason Lailah sent me to this world, I thought it would be better not to reveal the last name of Justina.

In addition, Satou's complex background reminding me of my period as a war refugee was also the main reason.

Is there any area nearby where stars could be seen.

The one Satou recommended to me at that time was the area where the Mikata National Observatory was located.

This was the central area for Japan's astro-observation, and activities related to astro-observation were held every few months, anyone can participate freely as long as they register.

According to Satou, he had worked here before, and the employee hostels can be rented at a cheaper price as long as a person works here, the night sky can also be observed when working.

Once I told Acies, she insisted on moving here.

Even though I did not really want to leave the apartment Lailah prepared, if it was Lailah, even if we move somewhere else, she would be able to find us through Acies's presence.

Therefore, we moved here just like that.

Emerada stood in front of a low building with many Mopeds parked in front of it, staring at the sign hung outside.

“‘Yomiuri Newspaper Distributor’ is written on top. This is a place which collects and delivers a media called newspapers.”

Suzuno, standing at the side, explained the meaning of the words.

“Wait a bit. I’m going to ask the chief to help us open the room.”

After Nord said this, he calmly opened the sliding door of the shop and stepped inside.

“So that’s why he wanted to get a Moped license.....”

Ever since Emi heard that Maou met Nord and Acies on the bus heading to the driving exam location, she was confused on why Nord wanted to get a driving license, but once she saw the row of mopeds used to deliver newspapers----Honda RADISH, she understood.

Even though there were a few bicycles parked there, the job would probably go more smoothly if a moped was used instead.

Just on the point about ‘the night sky can also be observed when working’, delivering newspapers is going through the various alleys and streets before the sun rises to deliver newspapers to each household.

Even though Emi did not have that kind of experience, the newspaper distribution centre did provide employees with a place to stay, and because they had to finish their jobs in the morning and night during limited times, some employees are actually students on the scholarship from newspaper publishers who go to university.

The job of delivering newspapers was definitely not easy, but Nord's body, after being trained through farmwork and having the mental strength enough to go through the life of a war refugee, it should be an easy thing for him.

Even though it has diminished because of internet and television, newspapers still kept the activity as a media of information, so as long as one did work related to newspapers, it would be easy to grasp the movements of the world.

Compared to Maou and Ashiya, who could only rely on libraries to obtain information before Urushihara came, Nord probably came into contact with more updated information.

After a short time, Nord walked out together with an aged man, and walked to the back of the store.

That was the chief of the distributor, and Emi had been introduced to him once before. Behind the distributor, an apartment similar in appearance to Villa Rosa was squeezed there, and one of the blocks was used as a hostel for the employees of the distributor.

Emerada looked at the closely packed apartments in interest, then went to get Emi's attention like she thought of something.

"Hm? What is it, Em?"

"Even though we heard Nord-san's explanation just now~~I still don't understand why you won't allow Nord-san to help pay for the debts you owe the Demon King~~"

"Oh, that issue."

Emi showed a wry smile and stared at the sign of the distributor.

“Simply because my savings are still enough to handle it, perhaps you might feel that I’m too stubborn.....but another reason is because of my mother.”

“Mother.....refers to Lailah~~?”

“Yeah.”

Emi sighed, shook her head and said.

“I don’t think my mother is a bad person, but even so, my father and my situation, as well as the Demon King’s situation, has something to do with my mother. The money which my father has right now, part of it is prepared for him by my mother right? I don’t want to depend on my mother’s money. Even putting these complex issues aside, troubling my parents to pay for the debts I created myself doesn’t feel that good right?”

“Oh~~”

It does feel reasonable when hearing this, but with regards to the tight financial situation now, doing so could only be termed as forcing oneself.

“Emerada-dono, this can’t be helped. Emilia is very stubborn when it comes to these things. To put it in a nice manner, she has a complex.”

“That’s true.....with regards to this, she has not changed at all.”

“I’m really thankful for both your praise.”

Suzuno and Emerada gave wry smiles like they have given up, as for Emi she pouted happily.

After around 10 minutes, Nord came back with the file.

After bowing to the director, and returned to Emi and the others.

“Looks like a lot was accumulated.”

Within folder with the logo of Yomiuri News printed on it, there were a lot of cardboard parts.

“Acies, why does she want to look at the stars so much?”

“Hm.....even though it’s only my hypothesis.”

Nord looked at the folder in his hand, answering Suzuno’s question.

“Basically, before Acies was born, when Lailah mentioned the things related to the ‘Yesod’ fragment to me, she was emphasise the sky. It was like that when she asked me to take walks at Yoyogi Park, when the fragment was buried in the Star Sky Balcony, she intentionally chose the place which would receive sunlight first. The sky, the stars at night especially, might have an important meaning to them. I remember this.....”

As he spoke, he took out the thinnest piece of paper from the folder.

It was not a paper model, but a cardboard panel with a large circular shaped cellophane sheet on it.

“This was something which was gotten during the moon observation event organized by the observatory. As long as light is shone from the back, a map of the moon will appear on the wall, Acies seemed to especially like this one. Within her collection, for reasons unknown, there seem to be a lot of things which are related to the moon.”

“Moon.....is it?”

According to the legends in the bible, the jewel which formed the world, ‘Yesod’, the celestial body it controlled was the moon.

Not knowing if it had anything to do with this, Szuzuno looked at the stacked cardboard parts with a thoughtful look on her face.

“But~~it’s great that Acies’s collection was found~~”

“That’s right, but the errand was really completed in a short time.”

Nord nodded in agreement to Emerada’s words.

“I still want to chat more with everyone, and there are some things I have not told Emilia yet, if it’s possible, I hope that we can find a place to gather everyone who’s related to this and properly talk about it in sequence.”

“That’s true. Even though it’s a little irritating, there are some things we have to confirm with the Demon King and the others.....right now, why don’t we give this to Acies first? If we go back to Sasazuka now, I will make it just in time for the thing in the evening.”

As she spoke, Emi turned and walked to the bus stop----

“Then again, Emilia. What are you doing in the evening?”

but she immediately stopped because of Suzuno’s question.

“Yeah, actually.....”

Emi smiled in a rather troubled manner, turned her head and answered Suzuno.

“I have a job interview.”

※

Inside the employee room of the MgRonalds in front of Hatagaya station, Chiho puffed up her cheeks once she saw Maou and walked close to him.

“Maou-san! I heard everything from Suzuno!”

“Eh? W, what is it?”

The high school girl forced the King of Demons, Satan, who had already recovered his full demonic power, against the wall once they met.

“Even though I also know Maou-san and Yusa-san are enemies! But even if that is so, doing such a thing is too inconsiderate!”

“Uh, Chi-chan, that’s wrong, that was because.....”

“I know Maou-san has a hard time, and I also know that money issues are very important! But, I still think that saying such things in front of Yusa-san’s father is not good!”

It looked like Chiho was truly angry.

What Chiho was referring to, was probably Maou asking Emi to pay her debt in front of Nord who had not fully recovered.

Maou complained about Suzuno who said too much to Chiho within his heart while he tried to placate Chiho with all his might.

“Uh, Chi-chan, there’s a very complex reason behind this…….”

“Shouldn’t you at least do this at MgRonalds, Maou-san’s room, Suzuno-san’s room or other places where Yusa-san’s father is not around?”

“Chi-chan, please listen to my explanation! I have a reason for doing such a thing!”

Maou pressed down on Chiho’s shoulder, who looked like she was going to grab his chest and throw him outwards, and pushed her away.

“I don’t know what Suzuno told you, but I did such a thing because I had my own considerations.”

“What considerations! Do you know after that, Yusa-san and father…… Nord-san, quarreled until it became awkward because of money issues!”

That was true, without Chiho and Suzuno reminding him of this, Maou also knew that things would turn out like this.

After all, from Nord's point of view, his daughter's debtor was the enemy of humans.

Nord was still the person who became involved with the 'Yesod' fragments earlier than Emilia, so he did not unilaterally view Maou and the demons as evil, even so, he should still be clear that Emi's current standpoint was not good.

In addition, Emi seemed to plan to handle Maou's request with just her own money.

The various big and small things around Nord looked like they were probably newly bought by her as well.

Even though Emi's hourly pay was originally higher than Maou, satisfying Maou's requests in such a short time, did it cause her savings to be depleted at once?

"I had thought she would counterattack more strongly."

"Counterattack?"

Maou's expression seemed rather tired, causing Chiho to frown and look confused.

“Because that was 350,000 yen you know? Even for a permanent employee, 350,000 yen is not an amount which can be easily taken out right? Moreover, she’s currently unemployed.”

“Of course! So that’s why you should not say that in front of Nord-san.....”

“I wanted to tell her, if she can’t produce any money, she can pay using her body.....Chi-chan, Chi-chan?”

Maou had only spoken halfway, when Chiho’s face turned redder and redder in front of him, and her eyes were bulging outwards in anger, causing him to realise that he seemed to have said something wrong.

“Bo, bo, bo ,bo, body, use body, use body.....! Maou-san! What are you saying! A, a, actually saying such crude things, I really misjudged you!”

As Maou expected, Chiho shouted, and Maou frantically explained,

“Chi-chan Chi-chan Chi-chan! Calm down! I phrased it poorly! I don’t mean it that way! You see, it’s like this!”

Maou took out a small book which looked like a magazine from the drawers in a flustered manner.

“Think about it, the other person is that Emi right? Just owing me, the Demon King, a favour, would already make her angry, I thought if I proposed this kind of unreasonable request, she would definitely lose her temper just like before. With that, I could treat this as a replacement proposal, I wanted to talk about this!”

Chiho, who had become fully red because of anger and embarrassment, seeing the cover of the magazine and the post-it note which was poking out, started to generally understand what Maou wanted to say.

“Maou-san, don’t tell me.....”

“I thought that she would say ‘Why can pay such an amount of money! Even if I do owe you a favour, there should be a limit’, something like that. Then, as long as she said this.....or rather I thought that she would counterattack in this manner, I would be able to ask her to compensate in other ways, for example, coming in from the fact that she currently does not have a job..... right?”

Maou awkwardly passed the magazine to Chiho, and Chiho accepted the magazine with a look like she did not know what expression she should use.

Printed on the cover of the magazine was ‘Free Micro-information Magazine, CITY WORKING! Shinjuku, Keio, Oda Rapid Line edition’, in addition there was a mascot pig drawn with it holding a placard with ‘Food and Beverage Shops Special Edition!’ written on it.

The newly published edition had a post-it note on it, and when the marked page was flipped to, as expected, the words ‘With the expansion of the business expansion of MgRonalds in front of Hatagaya station, we are recruiting new staff on a large scale! Prior experience not required!’

Chiho looked at the page and Maou’s face in turn with a shocked look on her face.

“Ma, Maou-san.....”

“If you can’t pay the money, then work to pay it.....I wanted to say that..... but, things did not turn out as expected.”

After Maou said this, his shoulders sagged in depression.

“.....”

Chiho looked at Maou in this state like she could not take it, returned the magazine to him, and then----

“You’re not straightforward at all!”

Chiho’s voice pierced directly deep into Maou’s heart.

“B, but.....”

“There’s not but! What was that! Even though it would be fine to say it directly from the start, why do you have to do such a roundabout thing!”

“Ugh, because me and her have different standpoints.....”

“Can standpoints be eaten! Can it help find a job?”

“Ugh, once you say that.....but, the other person is Emi.....”

“Because you did not properly and seriously treat her with kindness at this kind of time, it resulted in words which could have been heard to be missed!”

Just as both of them were saying their piece, before Maou knew it, he had been forced to sit on the folding chair, accepting Chiho's unending lecture from above.

"Then again, what is this! You're not an elementary school boy, even though you want to be kind to the girl, you still end up bullying her because you felt it was not cool, as a Demon King, don't you feel that it is embarrassing?"

"W, wait, Chi-chan. Your assumption has problems. Basically, we are really short-handed in the store, she's cordial to everyone who is not a demon, I just thought that since she had done phone customer service before, she should be able competent in handling the delivery orders, I did not want to be kind to her at all....."

Chiho loudly scolded Maou, who wanted to use the reason of MgRonalDs being short-handed to escape.

"This is the same thing! If so, why didn't you say so in the beginning! Why did you not tell Yusa-san directly that the store is short-handed, and her speciality would be helpful, so you hope that she could come to the store to work!"

"Ugh, even if you say that....."

Even though Maou had his own thoughts, Chiho did not listen to them at all.

"In fact, the reason is not important at all! If you're embarrassed about showing concern for Yusa-san directly, it would be fine as long as you say that you're worried about Alas=Ramus-chan or something similar, then introduce the job to her, why did you have to act like you're a bad person?"

“Ugh, because I am the Demon King, and she is the Hero.....”

“Until now, has being insistent on the identities as Demon King and Hero resulted in anything good!”

The strongest lightning strike today pierced through the King of Demons.

Maou flinched greatly on the folding chair, and nervously looked up, Chiho was currently looking down at Maou with a gaze full of anger like when Emi was at full power.

“Now is not the time to rigidly stick to that kind of thing! Didn’t Maou-san already work together with Yusa-san, Acies and Ashiya-san to fight with those angels in Ente Isla? Don’t tell me at that time, you were fighting while thinking about things like the Demon King and Hero?”

“Ugh, that.....even though Suzuno did say a bunch of miscellaneous things, we are not specially.....”

Regarding the beginning to the end of the battle which occurred in the Eastern Continent of Ente Isla----Afashan Royal Capital, Azure Sky Canopy, Maou, Ashiya, Emi and Suzuno had already told Chiho about it personally.

Chiho felt angry towards Olba and Heaven when she heard about Emi being captured in Ente Isla, felt surprised when Maou coincidentally met Alberto, smiled because of the letter Ashiya sent to Emi, felt wonder when Suzuno rescued Emerada, and when she knew Emi and her father had reunited, she felt happy for Emi while crying, showing a mixed expression of sadness and happiness.

Chiho, after knowing the whole story of the battle, had thought this before----

“Even though it was so rare that the relationship between Yusa-san and Maou-san had become a little better.....”

“Chi-chan.....”

Maou became flustered because Chiho showed a sad expression.

“Maou-san.”

“O, oh?”

“If Yusa-san really returns the money to Maou-san, and sorted out her feelings properly, what can be done if she seriously begins to want to fight with Maou-san?”

“Eh? Nonono, as long as Alas=Ramus is still here, I don’t think such a thing will happen.....”

It’s not as if Maou did not worry about this problem before.

With the ending of this incident, once Emi returned the favours she owed Maou, only one reality remained between the both of them-----which would be that Maou had not given up in conquering the world, and had left painful memories for Emi and Nord in the past.

Even though she had successfully reunited with her father, considering those heavy things which Emi had lost, even if Emi asked Maou in return for corresponding payment, it would not be anything strange.

“S, since she’s unable to take my life.....don’t tell me she would ask me for money this time? For example, a solatium or something?”

“Seriously!”

Chiho turned away from Maou like she could not stand his deeply rooted miser thoughts.

“A, anyway, sorry, Chi-chan! I wasn’t careful in my thinking.....”

“It’s useless even if you apologise to me right.”

“Ugh.”

Chiho sighed at the speechless Maou.

“Sometimes, I really don’t understand.”

“O, oh?”

“In the past, Yusa-san frequently says that Maou-san is a foe, an enemy, and wanting to defeat you, words like that.”

“T, that’s right. Yeah.”

“What does Maou-san think?”

“Eh?”

“How does Maou-san, in fact, view Yusa-san?”

“How do I view.....ugh.....”

For unknown reasons, even though the situation and other party were different, it felt as if he had faced a similar situation before, this caused Maou to be momentarily flustered.

“Because Yusa-san is an enemy, so you wish to kill her in the end after all?”

“No, no, no matter what, I won’t go that far.....”

Chiho’s extreme speech caused Maou to widen his eyes in surprise, but he immediately realised that he did not answer Chiho’s question at all.

“You don’t think so after all right? All in all, Yusa-san is also one of the Great Generals of the New Demon King Army.”

Even though he was compelled against his will, regardless of Chiho or Suzuno, they recently have been using the title of Great General to force Maou’s bias, but since he had bought it upon himself, Maou was unable to rebuke at all.

“If so, don’t bully her so much, and show your cool side like a ruler. Please allow Yusa-san to see a new world completely different from before, or else.....”

Chiho said sadly, Maou could not reply at all----

“Alas=Ramus-chan would be too pitiful.”

and could only silently watch Chiho walk out of the employee room.

“Maa-kun.”

“Yes! I said something wrong, and made Chiho angry!”

Once she walked into the store, the store manager of the MgRonalds in front of Hatagaya station, an existence which Demon King Satan, who planned to conquer the foreign world Ente Isla, could not even raise his head to----
Kisaki Mayumi, stood there with an aura which greatly transcended that of Chiho’s just now, before she could say a word, Maou admitted his error first.

“I see.”

“Y, yes.”

“Maa-kun. Right now, I probably do not need to say anymore, this store currently does not have the leisure to choose employees now. You understand right?”

“I understand.”

Maou replied while getting cold sweat.

“We need to gather people no matter what, before the delivery service starts officially, we need to teach all of them properly. If old hands like all of you freeze the atmosphere of the store during this time, it would cause negative impact on the education of the new people. I’m correct on this right?”

“Y.....yes, that’s right.”

Kisaki was saying every sentence slowly like she was teaching earnestly, and it seemed like all of them had demonic magic within them, causing Maou to feel very nervous.

As autumn deepened, openings will start to appear in the shift timetable at the MgRonalds store in front of Hatagaya station.

Because a certain level of specialization is needed for the employees in charge of MdCafe, the number of people who are frequently in the store will increase, in addition, this store was unexpectedly selected to be one of the test branches for the delivery service, with just the number of people in the past, it was possible to be unable to maintain the operations within the store.

Besides that, once it was autumn, the trends of the working university students will become unstable.

The students in the third year of university who have been stable forces until now will start to be affected by activities to look for jobs, causing those people who would be able to steadily have shifts arranged to decrease one by one like the ebbing tide.

The long holidays which only universities have were going to end, and with the starting of the classes at the later stage, the flow of the first year and second year university students will become more vigorous.

As for the working housewives, even though their shifts are the most stable, in comparison, they lack flexibility in terms of time, and high school students like Chiho will start to face periodic examinations.

Like this, working class people like Maou will become the main forces during the arrangement of the shifts, however the number of working class people will never match the number of working students.

They need to hire new people during this time when the students were still able to maintain their shifts, and free up time and people needed to train these new people, if not, it is not just the new mode of operations, there is a risk that they would not even be able to maintain the past structure.

The normal Kiseki would depend on her perfect management, her surprisingly wide connections and her own physical stamina to overcome the periods when they are lacking in manpower, but faced with the sudden decision from management, the heavy burden this time could not be solved with just Kiseki's power.

“Even though this is natural, the store currently does not impose any restrictions on gender, and we are recruiting young female employees at the same time. Presumably, there will be many new people after this. Therefore if you get into any troubles related to females, and make the atmosphere in the store turn bad because you quarreled with Chi-chan.....”

The next moment, Maou felt the feeling of death for the second time in Japan.

“I’m going to show you Hell.”

“.....Ugh!”

Maou, who could not even speak, could only straighten his back and bow.

“Seriously.”

After confirming Maou’s intentions of submission, Kisaki looked at the clock in the store like she was trying to change her mood.

“And then, about the new people.”

“Just for today, there are three interviews. Based on the arrangements, everyone will come at the times when you are on shift. Maa-kun’s shift today will be at the MdCafe upstairs, so you might not have any chance to meet them, but I’ll let you know anyway. There will be one person in the morning, and two people in the evening.”

“I will remember it!”

Recently, Maou had been working his shifts at the MgRonalds Café on the second floor.

Having the MgRonalds Barista qualification verified by the company was of course one of the main reasons, but Chiho, with the same qualification, actually spent more time at the normal counter downstairs instead.

There were many reasons, for example, just on pure ability alone, as long as it was during the period where there was not much crowd, Maou would be able to man the café counter on his own.

Chiho was still a high school student, so even if she was put in charge of the café counter, she would not be able to continue past 10pm until the end of the operation hours.

Another simpler reason was that as the first floor will attract the attention of more customers, it would be more suitable to arrange for female employees to work there compared to male employees.

Other than the work interviews, Maou was also instructed about some miscellaneous things.

“Eh? We didn’t order any cheesecake?”

“Didn’t you watch the news? You took a rare long period of leave earlier. During this period of time, because foreign bacteria were found in the foreign factory which made the cheese, it will not be imported for the time being.”

“Ah.....is that so? Recently, I did not have much time to watch television.....this will be troublesome, no cheesecake huh.”

“Lacking a hot selling item is a huge loss, but with just our own power, this can’t be helped. We can only work hard and turn things around using other items. We also need to think of ways to increase the profit for the chestnut, yam and pumpkin cakes for the autumn season event. Let’s just think of it as a chance to promote other items.”

The one week gap was bigger than he thought.

With just one week without any shifts, the sauce used for specific burgers was different, and unfamiliar names started to appear on the shift timetable.

Even though he managed to recover the feeling of working these few days after some effort, the fact that he was not able to delivery training still caused him to feel uneasy.

Of course, not all of the employees participated in the training, and it was not just Maou who planned to take to the field.

Even though there were sufficient opportunities for training before the actual commencement of the new operation, it would definitely be better to put in more preparation.

“If it is methods of using the GYRO ROOF to travel on rugged roads, go up the stairs and throw flaming bottles, I have already experienced them personally.”

Standing in front of the café counter on the second floor, Maou started to feel melancholy when he started to think about the future. It was still early, and there will not be much customers coming to the café, such that he could not help but start thinking about some unnecessary things.

“The future huh.....”

Maou, who had nothing to do, checked the expiry dates for the ingredients in the freezer for a while, and wiped the surfaces of the equipment until they were shiny next, but this was still a store managed by Kisaki after all.

He finished all this in less than 30 minutes, and could only wait for customers to come while being distracted.

“If you mean to do so one day, then tell Emilia.”

He suddenly remembered what Suzuno said when they were camping in Afashan.

“Until now, has being insistent on the identities as Demon King and Hero resulted in anything good!”

Without Chiho’s reminder, Maou also knew that nothing good had happened. There was no doubt about this.

Even though it was not guaranteed that something good will occur if they abandon their stubbornness, what Chiho said was reasonable.

“Sorry, I caused you some trouble.”

What Emi said in the rising sun at Azure Sky Canopy surfaced in Maou’s mind.

Maou was not so dense to not know that those were Emi’s honest words from her heart.

Emi sincerely wanted to apologise to Maou with regards to what happened in that one month.

And placed everything which happened so far to the side.

“.....Is it unfair?”

Long before Suzuno asked, Maou had already decided that he will definitely not tell Emi the reason behind the Demon King Army's invasion of Ente Isla.

Thinking about it carefully, he made the decision at that moment.

Not long after reuniting with Emi, the period of time when Chiho still did not know the true identities of Maou and the others.

Emi, who fell at the stairs of Villa Rosa Sasazuka, had announced to Maou while crying,

“You completely stole my stable life, I definitely will not forgive you!”

To Maou, who had started to understand human society, it was a fact he should accept, and a condemnation he was willing to bear.

After that, even though he was aware of this, at the same time, he had conceited thoughts that the decision to invade Ente Isla was not a wrong decision.

Just like what Maou told Suzuno before, if he placed the other party's tragedy and his own tragedy on a scale and compared them, he would place himself first.

So since such a stern truth existed.

“.....What does this have to do with what happened so far.”

Emi was the Hero Emilia Justina, an enemy of the demons no matter where she goes.

Maou was the Demon King Satan, an enemy of Emi and the people of Ente Isla no matter where he goes.

In actuality, life in Japan was just a fight outside the field of where the competition field was. What was supposed to be a brawl outside of the field, after a lot of things were involved, became a partnership outside of the field.

Even though admitting this caused a strange feeling of comfort, everyone was already mentally prepared, this was a fragile environment which would break down as long as there was a huge turning point.

Even if the incident this time would become that huge turning point, there would be nothing strange about that.

“This is also a request presented by me as a General of the ‘New Demon King Army’.”

“Didn’t Maou-san name Yusa-san yourself?”

“Ahhhh enough!”

“I will show you a new world.”

“What do I want do, and what should I do?”

“Maou-san, why are you so noisy?”

“Uwah!”

Maou, who became confused because of the past voices circulating his in head, after hearing Chiho’s unhappy voice from the side, he could not help but jump up.

“Chi, Chi-chan? W, w, what is it?”

“No, I’m the one who wants to ask what’s wrong with Maou-san? You seem to be mumbling something?”

“Uh, erhm.....”

Could he have said his troubles out loud just now?

Maou, who suddenly became alert, surveyed his surroundings, from how the customers in the café were not specially paying attention to where he was, his voice should not be that loud.

“N, nothing. So, is anything wrong?”

“Uh.....I only came to pass a message. A customer came to look for Maou-san.”

Even though Chiho looked like she did not believe Maou's answer, she still put that the matter aside and pointed in the direction of the stairs.

“Customer.....”

Maou followed Chiho's gaze and looked up, and noticed an unexpected person.

“I'm sorry for disturbing you while you're at work, Demon King-sama.”

Even though it has become much cooler outside, holding a brown coloured envelope, Ashiya was still covered in sweat and standing there while out of breath.

“I got a shock, I almost thought you came for the interview.”

Maou said this while searching for his things in the employee room.

“I'm really sorry, but it was an emergency and no delay is permitted. I will apologise to shop manager Kisaki later.....”

“Ah, no worries about that, for that, just leave it to me to apologise. Oh, found it. Here.”

Maou took a brand new flip phone from this bag and passed it to Ashiya.

Because Maou's old Thu-ka phone was badly damaged during the journey at Ente Isla, this phone with a silver streamlined body was bought by Maou

with Emi's money with a change plan, a new phone which could use modern systems and services.

Thinking about what happened at that time and making a connection to Emi and what Chiho had said just now, Maou's expression slowly darkened.

Even though he did not know how Ashiya interpreted this expression, in the end, he accepted the phone with a bowed head and guilty expression.

Inside the brown envelope Ashiya brought, was the credit card contract opened under Maou's name.

The reason he came here was to explain that Urushihara, isolated in an unknown place, was currently in a dangerous situation where he had the laptop and internet, and asked Maou to initiate the procedures to cancel the card.

“If I spend time now to call the credit card company to carry out the procedures, I will be scolded. Take the phone back and use the internet to confirm the usage, and if it is really bad, then carry out the procedures. Even though it's not really good to do that, I remember that the phone's internet can be used to temporary stop the card, if you feel that there is a danger, you can do that.”

“Many thanks. I will use your phone with care.”

“You know how to use it right?”

Ashiya normally did not have much opportunity to come into contact with the latest electronics, therefore Maou was a little worried if he was really able to complete the credit card procedures on the internet.

“I will read the instructions and make an effort. If there is really an issue, I will contact Bell or Suzuki-san for help.”

“Suzuno should be unable to help. As for Suzuki Rika.....because my phone is not docodemo but ae, I’m not sure if it would affect anything. And I think that she might be working right now.”

“Basically I will make an effort on my own, but this would still be better than me, not good at electronics, just using it randomly.”

“Sigh, we can only hope that Urushihara is not that dumb.”

“With regards to that, I am unable to completely trust him.”

Ashiya bluntly gave up on his trust towards Urushihara, and Maou could not help but laugh.

“Sigh, even so, we can’t frantically use up demonic magic because of a small thing like this.”

“You are right. Because we have restored our demonic magic, we are able to comprehend this, living in this kind of country, demonic magic is useless even if we have it.”

Maou completely agreed with Ashiya’s words.

When they first arrived in Japan, when they started their current life without a single penny, Maou and Ashiya have sighed countless times, if they could use demonic magic to light a fire, they would not need to pay gas bills, if they had water, they would not need to pay water bills, if they could make the home electronics move, they would not need to pay electricity bills.

However, with things as they are now, even if they did bought demonic magic back to Japan, they could not use it on anything.

As long as they turn the tap, there will be water, as long as they use their fingers to adjust, they can create fire suitable for cooking, or freely control the temperature. The convenient telecommunication electronics and home electronics would be able to operate appropriately as long as they are plugged in.

In the current situation where they were satisfied with food, clothes, living and transport, there was nothing which would cause them to want to specially use demonic magic, the important life energy.

Once they returned from Ente Isla, Maou immediately went to work happily, and Ashiya sent him off just like before.

Seeing how Maou acted as he went to work, Suzuno had said with a wry smile,

“I thought it would be like that.”

Whether it was Suzuno, Chiho or Emi, everyone who knew Maou’s true identity did not think that Maou or Ashiya would use demonic magic to endanger the safety of Japan or Earth.

Of course, the both of them did not plan to do so.

It was definitely not because they were afraid of Shiba or Amane, but because not just Maou, even within Ashiya's heart, their views on 'conquering the world' had changed greatly.

As a result, even though they were finally able to obtain the amount of demonic magic which they had when they were at their strongest, Maou and Ashiya only condensed the demonic magic into a solid form and after wrapping them in clingwrap and newspaper, they were placed in a cool area in the Demon Fortress, also known as the closet, for storage.

They originally considered to using the method in which they handled Farfarello's demonic magic, placing them in the fridge, but the amount of demonic magic this time was much higher, and Chiho and Alas=Ramus might possibly eat the food within the Demon Fortress's fridge, so this proposal was rejected.

As Maou's and Ashiya's demonic magic became very huge after being solidified, the second level of the closet was completely occupied, and just from the results, Urushihira's private space had disappeared without the person himself knowing, but that was another issue for another day.

Ashiya put the mobile phone into the pocket of his own pants, straightened up and bowed.

"Then, I will take my leave. Please do your best at work."

"Oh."

Just as Ashiya was able to walk out of the employee room, he turned back like he suddenly thought of something and said,

“Ah, also, Demon King-sama.”

“Hm?”

Ashiya, just like normal, said to Maou, who was looking back while stuffing his bag into the shelf.

“Even though I don’t know what happened, please patch things up with Sasaki-san as soon as possible.”

“Yah?”

Maou subconsciously dropped his bag onto the shelf.

“H, how did you.....”

“Because it was too obvious. Sasaki-san can be said to be the lifeline to our life in Japan, and her emotional state is largely taken from the actions of Demon King-sama. It’s about time you become aware of this. I’ll take my leave now.”

“.....”

Maou did not even have time to reply before Ashiya addressed him with a gaze and left.

“Ah.....I’m sorry.....during a busy time.....”

On the other side of the door, Ashiya’s intermittent voice was heard as he apologized to Kisaki or the other people.

Until that voice disappeared, Maou finally picked up his bag again.

“Sigh~~~”

Maou grabbed his head in frustration and squatted down on the spot.

“Sigh.....useless. I’m really useless. Keep it together already.”

Maou hit his head with his own fist, and readjusted his irregular breathing.

“What in the world am I doing?”

“What are you doing?”

“Eh?”

Just as Maou reflected on the portion which he did not know was immature, naïve or arrogant because of what his right hand man said, Kisaki, who walked into the employee room, looked at him with a suspicious gaze.

“Is the problem at home that serious?”

“Ah, no, it’s not like that.....”

In a certain sense, it was very serious.

“Then, it’s about time you went back to work. The customers upstairs are starting to increase. I left Chi-chan there, and will leave it to both of you for the time being. Understand?”

“Eh?”

After Kisaki said this, she closed the door without waiting for Maou to reply.

After Maou was stunned for a while----

“.....Hmph!”

he immediately used his palms to hit his cheeks on both sides, and motivated himself once again.

“First, I have to settle the work in front of me!”

After Maou rushed up to the second floor, he discovered that a number of people were already queuing at the counter.

“I’m sorry for letting you wait so long.”

“Yeah!”

Even though Chiho was barely able to complete the orders, she could not handle all the work in time, and until Maou joined in, the crowd in the line started to move smoothly.

“Sasaki-san, the hazelnut syrup has been used up. Can I trouble you to take the chance to bring it over?”

“I understand!”

After completing the last order for this batch of customers, Maou gave Chiho instructions, and handled three orders at the same time.

Chiho took this chance to run to the storeroom downstairs, and returned with the backup coffee syrup.

At close to noon, the crowds started to truly flood into the store, Maou and Chiho demonstrated a rapport like they had not quarreled at all when they first came to work, and perfectly served the customers of MdCafe.

Even though people frequently believed that the busiest times of MdCafe was lunch and afternoon tea time, but customers who wish to avoid the crowds at the normal counter on the first floor, or customers with the majority being females who planned to rely on light food to settle their lunch, their numbers were sizable, so cakes and scones and other simple deserts were naturally out of the picture, even hotdogs and sandwiches were very popular items.

Since before, not just working days, even on weekends like today and national public holidays, the store in front of Hatagaya station would be filled with working class who are working during holidays and customers with family.

After MdCafe started operating, there would be more customers on weekends, today's crowd only started to slowly dissipate only at 3pm, the afternoon tea time.

Maou and Chiho, who could finally catch a breath, subconsciously looked at each other behind the counter.

“There’s such a huge crowd.”

“That’s right. But last week, when Maou-san was not around, there was almost the same amount of people. I was on duty with Kisaki-san for the lunch period last week, it was really difficult.”

“It was difficult even if Kisaki-san around huh, looks like it was really bad.”

In Maou’s eyes, Kisaki during peak period was like the descending of the three headed, six armed Ashura, not only could she handle various tasks at the same time, she even monitored the situation in the entire store with more accuracy than the surveillance camera.

“If we start providing delivery service in this situation, it would be really miserable.”

“Yeah.....Maou-san.”

As if he was trying to escape Chiho’s gaze as she looked up in his direction, Maou turned away, intentionally adjusting the angle of the brim on his hat.

“So.....uh, erhm, how should I say this. Even though it might already be too late.....when we met next time, I will talk with Emi properly.”

“I”

“But, don’t expect too much. Basically her hourly pay last time was 1,700 yen, or she had already found a job with better benefits, and with the things I said before, she might chase me away directly.....”

“Yeah!”

Chiho’s tired expression from having just gone through the peak period instantly changed into an energetic expression.

“Erhm, honestly, I also do not know how the relationship between Emi and us will change in the future.”

“Yeah!”

“Right now, I can only focus on carrying out the things in front of me well. Recently, it feels like my ability to thinking about the future has weakened a little.”

“Because, many things have happened.”

“Yeah.....so, sigh, since nothing can be concluded by thinking about things which will happen far in the future, we might as well think about how to get through the difficult tomorrow.”

“.....!”

Chiho seemed to have remembered something because of Maou’s sentence, raising her eyebrows and widening her eyes.

“W, what’s wrong?”

“Ah, no, nothing.....eheheh.”

“B, but let me say this first, you really shouldn’t expect too much okay? I don’t think that Emi will accept my invitation at all!”

“About that, it might just be like this. However.....”

Chiho showed a happy smile, and said in a natural and soft voice,

“The future, is formed by accumulating today and tomorrow.”

(T/N: This is most likely derived from what Kisaki told Chiho in the short story in Volume 7.)

“Hm?”

“No, it’s nothing.”

If she continued, it might cause Maou to think about unnecessary things, and depending on the situation, it might even make him unhappy.

Therefore, Chiho did not plan to continue talking about this topic.

Even so, Chiho still believed. As long as Maou and Emi continued to be close to each other everyday, a world where the Demon King and Hero will no longer kill each other will arrive.

“But, I really hope that Yusa-san can come to the store. It feels like it will be a happy thing.”

“No.....sigh, it would probably become noisy.”

Maou was unable to spoil Chiho’s innocent thoughts, and could only answer vaguely.

“Ah, but if it turns out like this, the training of the new staff would definitely be handled by Maou-san right?”

This question caused Maou to get a shock.

“Eh? Why? Other than me, there should be a lot of people who can do it right?”

Once the task of training the new person was accepted, that person would have to stay near the new person.

Including Chiho, Maou had already instructed many newcomers, but once he thought about having to teach Emi anything, it felt as if he will carry a lot of stress in the future.

“Maou-san shouldn’t be able to escape right? You are a shift manager, and have the largest number of shifts, in addition, Kisaki-san knows that both of you know each other. Yusa-san had come a few times as a customer, I think there should be people who still remember her? No matter how I think about it, Maou-san will be the one who will be appointed as the one responsible for this.”

Chiho’s calm and certain analysis, caused Maou to start sweating and shake his head.

“Nonono, forget about it. I forgot to consider the training. Just carrying out the newcomer training with her will greatly eat away at my spirit. Forget about it after all. It’s fine for her not to come. She’s more suited for other better jobs, yeah.”

“Sheesh! Maou-san!”

“Ne, I’m talking about IF okay. If Emi really comes to our store, please, Chi-chan, take my place and help me guide her training. Compared to being taught by me, having Chi-chan teach her will be less stressful and more efficient.”

“How would I be able to take on the task of teaching a newcomer. Relax. If anything happens, I will properly diffuse any quarrels.”

“You’re already convinced that we will quarrel!”

“Anyway, Maou-san, it’s a promise! Putting aside whether Yusa-san will agree or not, you have to explain the reason properly and introduce the job to her.”

“Ah~~I should not have been generous on the spur of the moment! Perhaps it would be better to ask Suzuno or Nord.”

“Seriously!”

Even if demons really end up having this kind of heart, if they were thought to be kind and benevolent, they might still get angry. Just as the both of them were talking about these things, Kisasi suddenly came upstairs.

“Maa-kun, is it convenient now?”

“Ah, yes.”

Maou nodded and came out from behind the counter.

“It looks like Chiho’s mood has gotten better. Hm?”

“P, please stop mentioning that.”

Seeing Chiho change to a cheerful expression completely, Kisaki intentionally showed Maou a mischievous smile.

“Forget that. In the morning, I mentioned that there is an interview in the afternoon, one of them has come already, so I can’t be on duty for the time being. Ask Chiho to go downstairs to help. Also, there will be fewer employees during the dinner period, so after the end of the interviews, I’m coming upstairs. I hope you can take your break earlier. There won’t be any time to rest tonight.”

“I understand. Sasaki-san, Kisaki-san is asking for you to return downstairs!”

“Ah, alright! I understand!”

Once Chiho was called, she responded, full of energy.

“That’s right, Maou-san, it’s almost time for your break, right?”

“Eh? Yeah.”

“I have already placed the notes I have taken during the delivery training I participated earlier in the employee room, if you don’t mind, you can take a look at it later.”

“Eh? Can I!”

Maou’s gaze became full of motivation because of Chiho’s suggestion.

“Yeah, those were notes I originally made for Maou-san to read.”

During the week Maou, Suzuno and Acies when on their journey in Ente Isla.

Chiho took part in two MgRonalds delivery training sessions.

Of course, even though part of it was for the sake of her own work, the main reason behind was to help Maou who wanted to take part in the delivery training, so for Maou, this was a very attractive suggestion.

“Thanks! I will read it while filled with gratitude!”

“Yeah, then I’ll make a move first!”

Chiho went downstairs in satisfaction, Maou also returned to the café counter in high spirits.

“Their relationship is still hard to understand.....”

Seeing the backs of these two young people, Kisaki, by herself, frowned and crossed her arms in confusion.

Even though it was an odd time of 4pm, after Maou ate what was meant to be his dinner, he started to read Chiho's notes which she had written in neat handwriting.

“My thanks!”

Even though the person herself was not around, Maou still brought his palms together and prayed once to the notebook, and after confirming that his hands were not dirty, he started to flip the pages.

From the first page, Maou was impressed at the ordered pages written by Chiho in appropriate different colours.

Reading these words which showed signs of Chiho's serious personality, it can be seen that these notes where the important points were labelled with highlighters, and red and green pens were very easy to read.

The illustrations which could be seen throughout the notes, as if taking reference from Chiho's appearance, Chiho used a head of a young girl with twintails and speech bubbles to note down her own thoughts.

Chiho, who did not have a Moped license and was unable to apply for the driving license subsidy, even though she did take part in the training, for the main contents, rather than talking about the delivery, it was more related to the operations within the store.

The foundations of handling phone calls, the special packaging for the delivery, the ways to use and manage credit card payment, as well as the time needed to freshly make these delivery items, all these were recorded in the notebook in detail.

Especially the part about handling phone calls, it took up a significant amount of space.

Other than having to accurately hear the customer's last name, address, phone number and other basic information, even the possession of a promotion voucher, the explanation of the different delivery hours due to the varying busy levels of the stores, the business explanation techniques for event products were instructed in detail.

At the training location, vocal exercises were conducted based on this explanation.

“However, it feels like we can’t just memorise these contents.”

The chibi version of Chiho described her own thoughts.

“Because we cannot see the customer’s face, if we accidentally use a stiff tone of voice while talking, it will actually give customers a bad impression.”

“That makes sense.”

As if he was talking to Chiho who was not present, Maou nodded.

Serving a customer by answering a phone call and over the counter, the biggest difference between both situations, would definitely be being unable to see the customer's face.

In other words, the customer would also be unable to see the face on this side.

Like this, if the answering was done by reading off a script, it could instead give off a cold impression like they were handling civil affairs.

“The wording must be paid attention to more than normal. In addition, the one who answers the phone would most likely be different from the delivery staff.”

Even if the person answering the phone had a friendly attitude, if the delivery staff had a stiff expression and voice when they reach the customer's home, it would still lower the impression of the store and products, and vice versa.

All the employees would have to be more vigilant than before, else this delivery operation might result in an unexpected trap.

For Maou and Chiho, it goes without saying and even without any special reminder, the old employees cultivated by Kisaki were all talents who were able to think and put things into practice, but faced with this situation where new people were hired at a never seen before rate, it was not known how much the newcomers understood this.

“Ah, Maa-kun.”

“Oh, Kawa-cchi.”

At this moment, Maou's colleague walked into the employee room. That person was holding a paper bag from the bookstore opposite.

“Break time?”

“Yeah, I went out, to buy books.”

The man who was addressed as ‘Kawa-cchi’, his actual name was Kawada Takefumi.

He was a person with large build, sincere and honest but slow of speech. Even though his way of speaking was a little peculiar, he was a well rounded employee like Maou who could handle jobs in the kitchen and the counters, he was very skilled in making burgers, and no matter how busy the peak lunch hour and dinner periods were, ‘the burgers made by Kawa-cchi were still beautiful as if they came out of the commercial’, widely praised by Maou and the others.

Perhaps the person himself had his own special views of aesthetics, not considering if it was a good or bad thing, even during peak periods, the pace of his burger making would not change, so people would occasionally think that he does things a little slowly, but even then, it was just limited to being compared to Maou and Kisaki, Kisaki had high praise for the high level of accuracy and perfection for Kawada's work.

Even though he was still a university student, not knowing if it was because he always maintained excellent results, not only were his shifts not affected by exam schedules, he also had a normal bike license, and was seen as one of the main forces in the delivery operations.

“What are you reading?”

“Hm, this should be considered one of the main points in the delivery training.....or something like that.”

Even though Kawada was confused at Maou’s roundabout answer, after seeing the words on the cover of the notebook, he frowned deeply.

“Hmm.....I see. No wonder Chi-chan looked especially attentive when she participated in the training earlier.”

“W, what. Ah, then again, Kawa-cchi rides a bike normally, so you participated in the training where the Moped was used right? Can you tell me what all of you did?”

“.....”

Kawada pursed his lips and silently considered Maou’s request.

“I feel a little irritated, so I’m not telling you.”

“Eh?”

“It would be better for Maa-kun to explode two or three times.”

“W, what do you mean by explode?”

Even though Maou had bore the insults of many humans with Emi at the fore as the Demon King without caring about it, he had never thought that his colleagues will tell him to explode.

Maou could not understand Kawada's sentence meant, and asked while leaning forward.

“That's right, Maa-kun, have you heard about Kota?”

Kawada changed the topic with a stern expression.

“Eh? Uh, I have not heard about it. What's wrong with Kota?”

Kota refers to a university student who joined later than Maou and Kawada, Nakayama Kotaro.

Even though he is a junior in terms of standing, his was the same age as Kawada. Kota was a youth with a lean body and a normal work situation. Basically he had a sincere and bold personality, and his appearance was handsome enough to slightly resemble a celebrity, and as long as he was around, the atmosphere in the store would become cheerful, and received good comments among the female customers.

“It seems like he would resign after working until December.”

“Eh? Seriously? Why?”

The news Kawada brought caused Maou to lean forward----

“He's in third year of university this year.”

but he immediately leaned back because of the shock caused by this sentence.

“Ugh.....looking for a job huh.....”

Maou pressed his hand against his forehead and groaned, then turned pale because he discovered something.

“Hm? Eh? Then how about Kawa-cchi? Aren’t you in the same year as Kota?”

Not just Kota, if Kawa-cchi also resigns, the shifts will be disrupted greatly.

For the current Maou, ‘job seeking’ caused him more fear than Hero Emilia, and it was an enemy which could not be avoided.

“Oh, I don’t need to look for a job.”

“Eh, is that so?”

“Yeah, after I graduate from university, I’m going back to my hometown to take over my family business. Even though it’s my hometown, it’s also in Kanto.”

“Family business? Your family runs a business?”

“That’s right. It’s a small restaurant. I will probably aim to be the head chef.”

“Eh? Then are you studying a related course in university? Hm? But cooking is learnt in vocational schools?”

His colleague's unexpected family situation surprised Maou such that he placed this family situation aside and started to show interest.

“Sigh, even though I will be taking a chef's license sooner or later, I am studying business management in university. Even though it's not an amazing university, its research speciality is in regional business. I hope that I will be able to simulate the development of the local economy using the power of my own store in the future. Even though my hometown is in Kanto, it is quite some distance away from the city centre, and the number of young people are also slowly decreasing.”

“Oh.....amazing.”

Even though Maou was unable to establish a link between ‘regional business’ and ‘head chef’, Kawada was not the type of person to speak carelessly or exaggerate, in his heart, these two concepts should have a clear link.

“Kota was originally envious that I was able to decide my future path without specially doing anything. But taking over a family business requires a lot of determination, and considering the hardship later, as a whole it should be about the same as job seeking. After I said this, he accepted it.”

“I see. Like this, Kota would only be able to stay for one more year at most.”

“It should be like that. It's making me anxious.”

“Hm? Anxious about what?”

In that conversation just now, there should not be anything which would cause Kawada anxiety, but once Maou asked this, Kawada suddenly frowned again, looking at the notebook in Maou's hand.

“That.”

“Hm? This? What's wrong with the notebook?”

“Not that! I'm talking about a girlfriend!”

“Girlfriend.....huh?”

Maou looked at the cover of the notebook, thought a little about the meaning behind Kawada's words, and said to Kawada with a stiff expression on his face,

“Hahhhhhhh? W, wait, Kawa-cchi! Are you misunderstanding something? The relationship between Chi-chan and me is not like that.....”

“I know. But, I feel angry about some things after I know about it!”

“Huh?”

With a slightly angry gaze, Kawada glared at Maou who had suddenly shouted.

“Most people will not believe that Maa-kun and Chi-chan are not dating. Because doesn't Chi-chan occasionally help take care of the child of Maou's relatives? If both of you aren't dating, it should not be possible to do this kind of thing.”

“Oh.....”

Kawada should be referring to Chiho bringing Alas=Ramus, who had just arrived in Japan, to the store.

Other than that, the employees of MgRonalDs should not have seen any scene of Maou, Chiho and Alas=Ramus appearing together, but that incident did leave a huge impact on the employees of the store in front of Hatagaya station after all.

“W, wa, wait a moment, Kawa-cchi. Put that matter aside first, we should be discussing why you’re feeling anxious right?”

“Maa-kun, since you normally live too leisurely, perhaps you’ll be unable to understand.”

“Please don’t say it in such a way that instead of the words containing thorns, it is more like the words only contains thorns!”

“But to me, this is an important problem in life. Until now, I do not have a girlfriend.”

“W, will that cause anything.....?”

“Maa-kun, do you think that working in a restaurant where the only employees are your parents would open up any opportunities to get to know girls? If I do not find a girlfriend during my student life, I might be unable to marry!”

Kawada slammed the table using the book he bought which had not been unwrapped.

“Y, yeah, it does make sense. B, but, aren’t there many networking activities right now?”

“.....Maa-kun should understand how difficult it is to manage a store right?”

“Y, yeah.”

Maou believed that he would know how difficult it is to manage an enterprise more than anyone. After all, he is a king who established a multi-clan nation.

“Even though it’s a bit strange for me, who announced that I want to find a wife, to say this, but I think that marriage, rather than being a finish point, it is a start point right?”

“Ah, yeah, it does make sense. After all, both of you will have to live together from now on.”

“That’s right. But once I participate in that kind of activity, it feels like I will not have any leeway to explore if the other person is able to go through the future together with you. I don’t think that I will be able to manage the store together with someone who investigates each other’s qualities and information.”

Kawada’s analysis which could be described as cold and detailed caused Maou to sigh and say,

“S, so this problem is so deep that you have to think so much. Even though I only know about Kawa-cchi inside the store, you should have other female friends right? The relationship between you and the other female employees is very good too?”

“I find it strange as well.”

Kawada showed a rather masochistic smile.

“I seem to be especially popular with girls who have boyfriends.”

“Ohh.....”

Maou did not know what to say anymore.

“Whether it is in lessons, clubs or here, there are few girls who have quite a good relationship with me. They frequently use the reason ‘Thank you for discussing about my boyfriend with me’ to give me snacks. I even seriously considered becoming a counsellor once, to the point which I bought correspondence books.”

“B, but, this means that you’re a person who girls want to depend on right? I believe that they will definitely be a girl who will notice your good points in the future!”

“Even though Maa-kun saying this doesn’t have any comforting effect at all, let me thank you anyway. Sigh~I really hate my colleague who is being liked by a cute big chested high school girl.”

“Hey! What are you saying!”

Even though it was not the first time Maou participated in an irresponsible chat about girls when there were just male employees, but in the conversations between the normally serious Kawada and non-human Maou, for the term ‘big chested’ to actually appear, it was a really extreme exception.

“I’m not trying to pick a fight with you, just asking out of interest.”

“Both of them are evil natured no matter which one it is!”

“She is already showing it so obviously, have you not considered dating her at all? Chi-chan is a good girl. Maa-kun doesn’t dislike her right?”

Naturally, without Kawada saying this, Maou himself knew it very well.

Even though it was only known by the people present at that time, Chiho did confess to Maou before.

Maou himself also saw Chiho has the only human he could trust from the bottom of his heart.

Suzuno, who witnessed the confession, had also prompted Maou that it was about time to give her a reply, Maou also knew that this current situation where it was more like whether he should reply at all rather than reserving his reply, it was not being honest to Chiho at all.

Even so, even if it was like that, Maou was unable to reach a conclusion within him.

Responding to Chiho's confession, what meaning would it imply?

Once he thought about the changes which would be caused because of this, and how it would affect things between him and Chiho in the future, he became more and more unable to reply.

"I....."

Maou looked at the notebook in his hand, and repeatedly thought about the conversation with Kawada.

"My situation, might be opposite from Kawa-cchi."

"Opposite?"

"Even if I put the matter with Chi-chan aside first, there is something I want to achieve first, but I hope that I can avoid getting other people involved in this matter as much as possible."

"Getting other people involved? Maa-kun, didn't you say before that you wish to become a permanent employee through the transfer policy?"

"Yeah, but, it's something after that."

"Oh, it seems like you have your own thoughts. Something which can be done after transferring to be a permanent employee, you want to be a franchise store manager?"

“No, for that, it would be difficult if your funds aren’t sufficient enough right? I’m different from Kawada, I don’t know anything about running a business, and just 350,000 yen is enough to scare me to death.”

“What do you mean by 350,000 yen?”

“No, it’s my own problem. Sigh, anyway, I have my ambitions, and I hope that I will be able to avoid involving someone like Chi-chan, who is living a normal life.”

“Oh? I don’t really understand.”

Even though Kawada looked like he could not accept it, he did not ask further.

Even though he had not found all the answers, from the conversation with Kawada, Maou arranged the fuzzy portions in his heart.

He did not want to involve Chiho in his own way of life.

In some sense, these were Maou’s true thoughts.

He is the Demon King of the Demon World. After Chiho knew the true identities of Maou and the others, Maou was willing to borrow the power of his enemy Emi in his efforts to prevent Chiho from getting into any danger, but even so, Chiho still face life threatening dangers a few times.

For Chiho, who was willing to like him even though she knew everything, Maou was unable to pull her even closer.

In addition, between Maou and Chiho, there was a wall known as world and race.

As long as they try hard to find reasons, and more effort was put in, it would be possible to overcome the world wall, but only for the race wall, it was an obstacle which could not be overcome.

Maou was unable to grow old together with Chiho.

The difference in lifespan between the races which was difficult to overcome, will become a fatal chasm and cause Chiho pain, it was easy to imagine this.

No matter how Maou thought about it, he was unable to respond to Chiho's feelings.

“.....Hm?”

However, when he thought to this point, Maou noticed a slight discrepancy in his thoughts.

It seemed like he had missed something out. There was something illogical in his thoughts.

But before he could think about what it was----

“Ah, it's time.”

Without noticing, break time had ended when he was chatting with Kawada.

“Then I'm going first.”

“I’ll be going back a while later as well.”

After keeping Chiho’s training notes into the shelf, Maou put on his cap once again, and ran out of the employee room after notifying Kawada.

“Ah, Chi-chan. Your notebook is in my shelf. I remember that you can get off work already right?”

Maou spoke to Chiho, who happened to be at the counter.

“I don’t mind, if you don’t mind, please bring it home today. You can return it to me another day.”

“Is that so? Excuse me for that. Then let’s do that.”

When Maou said his thanks and went upstairs, he coincidentally met Kisaki’s gaze.

“How slow. You almost went past the punch in time.”

“Sorry, I chatted with Kawa-cchi for a while.”

With Kisaki’s reminder, Maou punched in the card for the end of break in a flustered manner.

“.....I heard that Kota is going to resign.”

“Oh, that.”

Maou's question caused a shadow to appear over Kiski's expression.

"This can't be helped. We cannot allow part time work to restrict his life. And because of that....."

It was five o' clock in the afternoon now. Kiski looked at the time displayed on the cashier, and as if to raise her spirits, she put her hand at her waist and took a deep breath.

"We have to find a new person who will not lose to Kota. The next interview is at 5:30pm. I have to raise my motivation."

Kiski exhaled in a short but powerful manner.

"Like this, it makes us, who are in charge of the interview, nervous as well."

Kiski also seemed to feel nervous about the current situation in her own way.

Regarding the two interviews which have already ended today, Kiski did not specially say anything, Maou and the other employees did not hear any news as well.

Even though they will know the results in a few days, Maou and the others can only pray that good new people will join.

"Then, I'll make a move first. After this, Maa-kun will be in charge of the second floor, I'm leaving the things here to you."

"I'll do my best."

Maou put his hand on the brim of his cap and bowed, watching Kisaki leave.

It was almost dinnertime now, and just as Maou planned to check the food ingredients needed for the night shift once again.

As if replacing Kisaki, Chiho actually rushed to the second floor.

Perhaps because she had got off work, Chiho was wearing her casual clothes instead of a uniform, she strangely ran to the café counter in a flustered manner.

“Ma, Ma , Ma, Ma, Ma, Ma, Ma, Ma!”

“W, what is it, Chi-chan?”

Chiho maintained her posture as she crashed into the counter, leaned her body towards Maou, and as she shouted ‘Ma’, she pointed in the direction of the stairs.

“Ma, Ma, Maou-san, did Maou-san make a call during breaktime?”

“Eh, I, I did not? I only ate and read Chi-chan’s notes, and for the second half, I was chatting with Kawa-cchi.....”

Maou, who did not understand why Chiho was so flustered, tried to remember what he did during the breaktime even as he felt surprised, Chiho showed a troubled expression like she could not accept it.

“Eh? But, just now that was.....ehh? Why? Why is it like this?”

Chiho became extremely panicked in an abnormal manner.

Forget about facing the Demon King, what exactly happened for Chiho, who maintained her resolute attitude even when facing the guardian angel of the Tree of Life or Malebranche Chieftian, to fall apart like this.

“Don’t tell me, did Sarel do something stupid?”

Kisaki had only gone downstairs for a few minutes for the interview, and Chiho had ran up in such a flustered manner, the only possibility Maou could think of was that the business competitor opposite, archangel Sarel, who stayed at Sentucky store as the shop manager, did something crude to Kisaki.

“Nonononono, it’s not that!”

However Chiho shook her head with such force like she was going to shake her brain out and quickly surveyed the customer seating area from within the counter.

“Ma, Ma, Ma, Maou-san, do you have any work which you’re doing h, halfway right now? None right? The customers look alright as well! C, come with me d, downstairs for a bit!”

It was impossible for the land owner to be patrolling downstairs, yet Chiho, for reasons unknown, frantically pulled Maou’s arm over the counter, like she was going to pull him out.

“Ow, it hurts, wait, Chi-chan! I understand, let go first! I’ll just go okay!”

Maou placated Chiho who looked like she was going to pull him over the counter and push him downstairs, and after confirming once again that no customers were going to add on any orders, he followed Chiho downstairs.

“P, please come over quickly!”

“Chi-chan, look in front, be careful not to fall not to fall on the stairs.....
what’s wrong?”

Even when going downstairs, nothing strange could be felt from the seating area, in addition, forget about seeing Sariel causing a commotion, he did not come to the store at all, and nothing strange could be seen at the counter or kitchen.

“Ma, Ma, Maou-san, there, there!”

“What? What is.....”

When Chiho discovered that Maou was looking in the wrong direction, she pulled his arm and pointed at the entrance.

Once Maou looked at the entrance while feeling confused, he discovered that Kisaki was talking to someone.

Kisaki was holding the cap used by employees and was leading the way for someone. Perhaps the other party was the last person for the job interview today.

From the time, Kawada was probably still in the employee room, so the interview should be held in the shop manager's office which was not located within the store.

“Hm?”

“Maou-san.....that person.....”

Maou suddenly discovered that something was a little out of place.

He had an impression of that figure who was bowing to Kisaki.

“Maou-san, I didn't make a mistake right. That, because, but, why?”

Not only did he have an impression.

Wasn't that a figure whom Maou and Chiho was very familiar with?

If they simply saw that figure within the store, it would not be that unnatural. After all, the other party had come to the store a few times as a customer.

However, for reasons unknown, that person was speaking to Kisaki very warmly, and Kisaki was planning to take that person to the shop manager's office?

Could she not be a customer? Was it really alright not to bring her to the counter or a seat?

“.....!”

Contrary to Chiho, Maou was speechless.

He did not know what to say at all, it just felt like his mind was a blank as he let Chiho shake his hand.

The female who was preparing to leave the store with Kisaki, suddenly turned and looked in this direction.

After discovering that two employees were standing stunned in the middle of the store, she smiled in a rather embarrassed manner, only waved lightly to Chiho, and walked out of the store behind Kisaki.

“E.....Emi.....”

“That’s right! That person just now was Yusa-san right?”

The last applicant who came for the interview today---Yusa Emi, in front of Maou and Chiho, disappeared from their field of vision together with Kisaki.

※

“EEEEEEEmi! You!”

“What are you shouting about since coming back.”

Maou, who returned to room 201 of Villa Rosa once he ended work, pointed unreservedly at Emi in the centre of the room as she waited for Maou to return like it was the normal thing to do together with Ashiya, Suzuno and Chiho.

“You.....!”

As he was speaking halfway, Maou totally froze at the porch.

“Demon King-sama, welcome back. Thanks for the hard work today. Let’s continue after you come in.”

Ashiya prompted Maou like he pitied him, the latter’s lips shook and he did not move at all.

“It looks like he has received a huge shock.”

“That is to be expected. I also got a huge surprise as well.”

Suzuno and Chiho also looked at each other and nodded.

“Chi, Chi-chan, erhm, I say.”

“Yes. Ah, I did get my family’s permission. I will stay at Suzuno-san’s place today.”

After Chiho said this, she pointed in the direction of Suzuno’s room.

“N, no, even though this is important as well, that’s not the main point right now, you, you, the last train.....”

The clock on the wall showed that it was already 12:30 at night.

Maou only got off work at the closing time of 12am, so he had already rushed all the way back, but Emi and Chiho were already waiting here beforehand like they had predicted Maou's actions.

Being flustered, Maou could only look at the clock and Emi in the end.

"I'm going to stay at father's room today as well."

Emi pointed at the tatami in a nonchalant manner.

"Ah, Demon King, one more thing. The one week's worth of salary which I owe you earlier, I have already passed the rest of it to Alsiel, you can confirm it later. Now only the Moped is left, please hurry up and make your decision. In addition, I have already paid everything I owe you, so don't ask me to pay interest using the Moped."

"O, oh.....wait, eh? You have paid everything?"

Maou, who came close to sitting at the porch, barely held himself up with his hand against the wall, and looked towards Ashiya, the latter, with a subtle expression, took out a white envelope and passed it to Maou.

"Like, like this, would your living expenses this month be alright?"

Even if the cost of the Moped was deducted, the amount of money Maou requested from Emi was still more than 200,000 yen.

Emi paid off all her debts in such a short time, and actually caused Maou to worry about her financial situation instead, but Emi nodded her head in an unconcerned manner.

“Don’t look down on an hourly pay of 1,700 yen. Even if you disregard this point, I will not carelessly buy things normally. As long as it’s not a very high end model, even for the Moped, I will be able to pay in cash.”

“Actually speaking like you have so much allowance.....as expected of Emilia, no matter how down and out you are, you’re still a Hero in the end.”

“I really don’t understand what kind of standards you have of the Hero!”

After Maou rebuked Ashiya with all his might as Ashiya expressed his awe for Emi’s composed reply, he took a deep breath to calm himself down, took off his shoes and entered the house, sitting next to Emi with a stiff expression on his face.

Seeing Maou act like that, Chiho and Suzuno could not help but glance at each other and show a smile.

“What is it.”

“No, that’s not what you’re supposed to say. What do you mean by this?”

“So I’m asking you what is it.”

“I say!”

Emi intentionally acted clueless and responded with a question.

Maou banged on the tatami, and asked in a loud volume,

“Why did you come to interview for the work at our store!”

“Hey, it’s late, please be quieter, it would be noisy for the ones downstairs. What would you do if you wake Alas=Ramus up.”

“What did you say?”

Emi maintained her leisurely attitude, causing Maou to turn red with agitation, even so, once he heard Alas=Ramus’s name, he still reluctantly moved his hand away from the tatami.

“Kisaki, she!”

“What about shop manager-san?”

“She said that the three people who came for the interview today have all been hired! What are you.....”

“Eh? Really? That’s great!”

Compared to Emi who went for the interview, Chiho seemed to be more worked up by what Maou said, standing up happily.

“Yusa-san! Like this, we will be able to work together from now on! That’s great!”

Chiho could not help but rush towards Emi sitting beside her and hug her.

“I’m also happy to have a senior like Chiho. You have to guide me well okay.”

“Emilia, congratulations for finding a new job so quickly. Like this, I feel much more reassured.”

“I’m sorry for making you worry. I have to contact Rika and Em later as well.”

“H, hey, wait a moment, all of you!”

Even if Maou backed up a few steps from being pressured by Chiho’s aura, he was still unwilling to back off.

“Wait! Let me finish what I want to say first!”

“What is it. Things have already mostly ended. I have already explained to Bell, Alsiel and Chiho, you can pick anyone and ask about it later. After I officially receive the position confirmation call from shop manager-san, I am going to start working at that store, please don’t get in my way.”

“That is what I’m supposed to say!”

Maou said this agitatedly, but because Chiho who was hugging Emi gave him a pointed look, his voice was lacking in force.

“H, hey, Emi, please tell me. Why did you apply for a job at our store. Let me say this first, the hourly pay of employees under training is only 850 yen you know? It’s only half of your original salary? Are you really alright with that?”

Even though the development was not that smooth, just like what he told Chiho, Maou really had planned to introduce the McGonalds job to Emi if he had a chance.

But he did not think that Emi would apply for this job before he could talk about it.

“Sigh.....”

Emi sighed, lightly loosened Chiho’s arms which were hugging her, and gave a wry smile while looking at Chiho and Suzuno.

Maou watched the actions of the three girls from the corner of his eye, and then realised that Ashiya was also showing a similar wry smile to Emi for unknown reasons.

“Demon King. I will say this again, the incident before, I am really thankful to you.”

“.....Huhh?”

Emi’s overly abrupt words caused Maou to widen his eyes in surprise.

“I have also thanked Chiho and Rika many times. I have also said this clearly to Em and Alberto. I.....”

Emi raised her head slightly, surveyed the whole room, and then with a calm gaze, she looked around room 201 of Villa Rosa, the Demon Fortress.

“like the times where I eat together with everyone in this room.”

“Even though I don’t know if you have such intentions, from the results, I, Alas=Ramus and my father, were released from various restraints in Ente Isla. Even though I have gone through some difficult processes, whether it was humans or demons, they were able to be spared from despair. Everything is thanks to you.”

“O, oh.....uh, erhm.....yeah.”

Maou awkwardly moved away from Emi while still sitting down.

Had Emi spoken to Maou with such calm feelings like this before?

Maou could not help but look towards the corner of the porch, even when she passed ‘that’ to him before, Emi did not show such a warm appearance.

Just as Maou was thinking this----

“But.”

Emi’s tone suddenly turned hard.

Maou subconsciously turned his face forward and discovered that Emi was looking towards him with a stern expression, after Maou met her gaze, he could not help but suck in a breath.

“And because of that, I cannot depend on your kindness. Because, I am still unable to forgive the fact that you have messed up the lives of me and my father. Because you.....are still my enemy after all.”

“Y, yeah, you’re right, yeah.”

Maou also nodded with a subtle expression, and he, who did not know what Emi wanted to say next, noticed Suzuno in the corner of his vision.

Even though he thought it was rather improbable, could Suzuno have leaked the contents of Maou’s ‘confession’?

But not knowing if Suzuno noticed Maou’s gaze, or that she had noticed but intentionally ignored it, she only quietly listened to Emi speak.

“Some time back, even though you intentionally asked me to return money in front of my father.....you actually did not plan to get so much money from me right?”

“Eh? Uh, erhm.....Chi, Chi-chan?”

“I didn’t say anything.”

Chiho shook her head with a calm expression on her face like Suzuno.

“That means that your immature shallow thoughts have been seen through from the start.”

Suzuno spoke after Chiho did so.

“The reason why you acted that lame drama was for the sake of waiting for me to say ‘How can I accept such a ridiculous request’ right? And once I say that, you would be able to take the chance to ask me to apply for the MgRonalds job, am I correct?”

“Uh.....t, that’s because.....”

“Maou-san!”

Chiho, with a rather hard tone, admonished Maou who was still trying to find an excuse to escape at this point of time.

“Give up.”

After Suzuno said this, she took out a well used hiring magazine which had been folded from underneath the kotatsu, causing Maou to get a huge shock.

Different from the one he showed Chiho in the store earlier, that was another free information magazine, after losing the chance to take it out because of Emi’s unexpected reaction, Maou had thought it was thrown away as trash.

“T, that is.....! Ashiya! Didn’t I tell you to throw that away?”

Maou interrogated Ashiya in a shaken manner.

“Because the day for collecting old magazines have not arrived yet.....”

Ashiya avoided Maou’s gaze, replying with an excuse.

“Then burn it! What else is demonic magic for! Right now is the time to use dark demonic magic to destroy all evidence!”

Maou shook Ashiya’s shoulder with a red face, but the latter ignored it.

“That is why I clearly protested against telling Emilia such unnecessary things from the start, and suggested to you that rather than doing that, it would be better to leave her alone. All this is a result of your own actions, please take responsibility.”

“You, you said responsibility.....”

Maou grabbed Ashiya’s shoulder and nervously turned back at looked at Emi.

“W, what are you doing?”

Maou produced something close to a scream, and backed up into a corner of the room.

Maou, who had turned back, saw the top of Emi’s head.

Emi had bowed to Maou.

That Hero Emilia, that Yusa Emi who would only see Maou with disgust like with snakes and scorpions and yielded to no one, actually bowed to Maou.

“Thank you for thinking for me.”

“Stop, stop, what is wrong with you? Are you really Emi? Don’t tell me you’re actually someone like Gabriel in disguise?”

Maou was shivering like a rabbit being glared at by an unknown beast, Emi raised her head, looked at him with a smile and said,

“At that battle in Afashan.....because of your help, I, my father and the village were freed from the dark ploy. About this, I am truly thanking you from my heart. As for the money and Moped, please accept it as a thank you gift. This has nothing to do with what you said at the beginning while harbouring some intentions. But like what I just said, in the end, I am unable to forgive you. So since we have returned here, I don’t plan to accept your good intentions anymore. Just for this, I hope you can understand.”

“.....”

After Emi said this, she got up slowly.

As if he was worried that he was going to get eaten, Maou reacted strongly and showed a battle ready pose to every action Emi made, Emi looked at Chiho and Suzuno.

“Then, it’s late, I’m returning to my father’s room first. Chiho, goodnight. Bell, thank you for helping my father so much today as well.”

“Yeah, goodnight!

“It’s nothing much. I am going to do my best to help Nord-dono get used to the new environment from now on as well.”

“Thank you. Then, Alsiel, Demon King, excuse me for intruding until this late.”

“.....Uhm.”

“.....”

After Emi said this, without waiting for Maou to reply, she walked to the porch, put on her shoes and left.

The sound of the closing of the porch door echoed lightly in the room, and as if that was a signal, Chiho, Suzuno and Ashiya looked towards Maou at the same time.

Before thinking about the meaning behind these gazes, Maou's body moved on reflex.

Without even putting on his shoes, he ran out of the room to chase after Emi.

Just like what Emi herself said, she would be staying downstairs tonight, so there was no need for Maou to chase after her in such a rushed manner, but he felt that he needed to call out and stop her before Emi entered the room.

In the end, Maou discovered Emi at the front yard of Villa Rosa Sasazuka.

More accurately, as if Emi already knew that Maou will run out, she was standing at the bottom of the public staircase, looking at Maou who had run out to the public corridor.

“Ugh.....!”

On the other hand, Maou who did not expect Emi to be waiting for him, messed up on his steps and missed the steps on the stairs, he frantically grabbed the railing and steadied himself.

“Hey, you better not fall down. I am not so kind as to catch you.”

“E, Emi.....”

Emi’s voice which sounded rather cheerful was heard from below, Maou also replied weakly.

Even though he called out to her, as Maou did not know what he wanted to ask, he could only remain silent.

Not knowing if she had seen through Maou’s thoughts, the corner of Emi’s mouth raised slightly and she asked,

“Demon King. Why do you want to work in that store?”

“.....Huh?”

Emi asked suddenly.

Even though he did not understand the purpose of this question, compared to Emi’s attitude and actions today, it was already considered a simple question, so Maou did not think too much about it and answered honestly,

“Because it did not require any experience, it’s close to the apartment, and if everything goes well, I would be able to eat.....in addition, there is the transfer policy I might have mentioned to you before.....”

“The reasons why you want to work there, there are a lot of motives besides money right? I am the same as well.”

“Eh?”

After saying this, Emi moved her gaze away from Maou, and stared at part of the Villa Rosa Sasazuka building.

“During the interview today, I asked father and Bell to take care of Alas=Ramus. If it’s this distance, we will not merge together even if we are in two different places. Even though the hourly rate of Docodemo is better, I always felt that Alas=Ramus, who is unable to go outside at all, to be very pitiful. If I work there, Alas=Ramus will be able to live more freely. Based on the situation I heard from Bell, I shouldn’t be able to take Alas=Ramus to the store right?”

Probably because she heard about the chaotic situation in the store caused by Alas=Ramus clinging to Maou together with Chiho, Emi showed a wry smile and continued,

“When my father decided to move from Mikata to this apartment, I have already decided. I will work there from now on. I am confident that I will be hired. After all, I frequently hear you complaining that you’re short-handed, and after the delivery service starts, the techniques I have honed from telephone customer service should become an advantage.”

Then Emi breathed in with force and said directly,

“So I was not influenced by you, and am not going with the flow. The reason I applied for the job at the store in front of Hatagaya station was because of my own will. Because I want to work at the store which suits the current me the best, I accepted the interview today.”

Maou seemed to be unable to believe it, but even so, he could not find any material to rebuke her.

“Luckily I decided to stay here today. Not only did I clear the favours I owe you, I even thanked you properly the things which happened earlier.”

“Emi.....you.....”

On Emi’s face illuminated by the moonlight, Maou----

“Like this, I would be able to move forward from tomorrow onwards.”

saw a honest smile which held no malice or animosity.

“Ugh.....”

Maou had an impression of that smile.

Where did he see that before?

Even though it was only once before, Maou should have seen Emi show a pure smile before.

However, Maou could not remember when that was.

“Ah, then again.”

Because----

“Even though it would be natural for shop manager Kisaki, but she still remembers me. During the interview, we talked a lot about you and Chiho, it felt like half of it was a chat.”

Emi----

“If I am really hired, in front of shop manager Kisaki in the future, I will not be able to speak without thinking like before. So.....”

suddenly said something unbelievable.

“From now on, please guide me well. Sadao-senpai!”

“Uoowahhh?”

At this moment, even if Maou wasn't moving at all, he still strangely missed a step, and slid down the stairs with a shout which would disturb the neighbours.

“Demon King-sama? What happened?”

“Maou-san?”

“What's wrong, did Emilia fall down again?”

“What! What is that sound?”

“.....fu.....uee.”

The intense shout caused Ashiya, Chiho and Suzuno run out from the second floor, Nord on the first floor, ran out with bleary eyes with a deeply sleeping Alas=Ramus in his arms.

What came into their vision was Maou covered in dirt from falling down the stairs, and Emi who had jumped to the side.

“Hey, are you alright? Even though I said before that I won’t save you, from the way you fell, I won’t be able to save you even if I wanted to right?”

“Oh, ah, oh.”

Maou groaned like the air within his lungs have been forcefully squeezed out, and in addition, in his gaze as he looked at Emi, there was a strange terror.

“W, what are you.....”

“What’s wrong? Do you dislike it that much?”

Emi was acting dumb no matter how he thought about it.

That voice and expression which looked like she was going to laugh was the proof.

“Then, that will do nicely. I have said so just now, I have not forgiven you at all, let me call you that for the time being. Sa.....”

“No wayyyyyyyy!”

Once Maou got up, he climbed up the stairs on his hands and feet with surprising speed, and passing between Ashiya and Chiho who rushed out to see the situation, he escaped into the room.

“What is it, what happened?”

Suzuno watched all of this in surprise, but because some soft sounds were heard immediately after the door closed, she quickly knocked on the door and started questioning.

“Hey, Demon King! Don’t lock the door! What in the world are you doing!”

“Ma, Maou-san? P, please open the door! My luggage is still in the room.....”

“What exactly happened? Demon King-sama, I’m opening the door.”

“Stop, Ashiya, don’t open ittt!”

Ignoring the scared shouted of the king of demons, Ashiya naturally took out the key from his apron and opened the porch door.

“Ahahahaha!”

Seeing this scene, Emi could not help but laugh out loud.

“Uh, hm? Emilia, are you alright?”

Nord asked while rubbing his eyes, Emi shook her head with a smile.

“No, it’s nothing. Sorry, making such loud noises this late.”

Just like this, Emi waved at Chiho and Suzuno, who were looking in her direction in surprise because they could not comprehend the situation, and entered room 101.

“But thanks to this, everything has ended.”

“Hm?”

Even if Nord did not understand, Emi said with the refreshed smile,

“From tomorrow onwards, it will be a new world.”

Emi announced in the room which was illuminated by the moon, and as she listened to the commotion upstairs which had not settled----

“It seems like I will be able to sleep well after a long time.”

she said this in a satisfied manner.

Chapter 3: Demon King and Hero, Fufilling the Late Promise

魔王と勇者、遅くなつた約束を果たす



It might rain spears tomorrow.

Seeing Maou's appearance, Ashiya thought this from his heart.

Even though it was the time when Maou would be late if he did not leave now, he stood unmoving at the porch.

“Demon King-sama, if you do not go to work soon, you'll really be late.”

“.....”

Even though Ashiya said this, Maou still did not move.

“Even if you act like this, reality will not change, I think you can only give up.”

“.....”

“Please pull yourself together, Demon King-sama! If you're like this on the first day, then what comes after would be very serious.”

“.....Ashiya.”

“Yes, what is it?”

Maou, with his back to Ashiya, said in a shaking voice.

“This is the first time I feel like this.”

“Yes.”



Then he turned back with a pale face.

“I don’t want to go to work~!”

The next moment, without saying anything, Ashiya kicked Maou out of the room.

“Please do not wander around on the way, go to work directly!”

From the top of the shared staircase, Ashiya shouted this to Maou who was riding shakily on Dullahan II, the latter raised his hand listlessly.

Maou, who would normally even dream about work, since yesterday, as if infected by Urushihara, mumbled about not wanting to go to work, how about taking leave and similar sentences.

If it was the normal Ashiya, he would be extremely worried about his master’s huge change, but considering the reasons this time, he was unable to pity Maou at all, and could only harden his heart and send his master outdoors.

“Has the Demon King left?”

“Yeah.”

Ashiya, who watched Maou leave until he could not see the bicycle anymore, tiredly replied Suzuno, who initiated a conversation with him from behind.

“Even though I heard most of it, does the Demon King not want to go to work that much?”

“I really don’t want to see that kind of Demon King-sama.....”

“That’s true. I don’t think anyone in this world would want to see a Demon King who throws a tantrum and doesn’t want to go to work. It’s not as if he’s Lucifer.”

Even though this was not where the problem occurred, Suzuno seemed to pity Ashiya a little.

“Today is Emilia’s first day at work right?”

“That’s right.”

Ashiya sighed deeply.

“Perhaps because the hourly pay is lower than her previous job, Emilia was arranged many shifts from the start, there seemed to be no days where she does not overlap with the Demon King. So in the end.....”

“The Demon King will be in charge of Emilia’s newcomer training?”

“I heard that the probability is 50-50. Because Demon King-sama is the only person besides shop manager Kisaki who can handle the second floor café

alone, it is possible that an employee in charge of the normal counter will be responsible for the training.”

Even though Maou said so last night, all of it was still his personal optimistic deduction in the end.”

“Then how about Chiho-dono? Chiho-dono also accumulated a significant amount of experience at that store right?”

“Even though Sasaki-san is capable, she is only a high school student, and in actuality, only has half a year of experience. She will be unable to be in charge of the newcomer training no matter what. Furthermore, the decision lies entirely in the hands of shop manager Kisaki.”

Three days have passed since Emi unexpectedly accepted the work interview of the MgRonalds in front of Hatagaya station.

Emi would officially start work this afternoon.

These three days, Maou kept thinking if there was method to skip work today, but all of them have failed because of Ashiya’s interference.

From Ashiya’s standpoint, he really did not want to see Maou avoiding Emi, and actually there was no need to do such a thing, he kept persuading Maou that it was a good opportunity for him to command Emi as a junior or subordinate in the workplace, but Maou, not knowing what he was afraid of, did not listen to Ashiya at all.

The unfortunate thing was that Maou had already passed his mobile phone to Ashiya for safekeeping.

In the end, the worry that Urushihara, whose whereabouts were unknown, would misuse Maou's credit card was unfounded. But because Ashiya was determined to not allow Maou to do the shameful action of calling the store to change shifts, he had not returned the phone to Maou.

In the end, pushed into the corner, Maou even suggested using the backup demonic magic to change the shift timetable or feign sickness, causing Ashiya to blow this top for the first time in ages and lecture Maou harshly.

As the Demon King, actually wanting to use demonic magic for such a shameful thing, it was really intolerable, and the cause of everything, was in the few minutes which Ashiya and the rest did not see.

As Maou chased after the Emi who left the Demon Fortress after saying her thanks, until he fell down the stairs, what happened in those few minutes which caused Maou to become like this.

Maou was determined not to say anything about it, and even if he asked Chiho or Suzuno, both of them were unclear about it as well.

No, more accurately, Suzuno seemed to vaguely sense the reason behind it, but was unable to conclude anything in the end.

“I hope he won't make any mistakes at work.”

“About that, we can only hope for Chiho-dono's support.....that's right..... today is Emilia's first day at work.”

Once Ashiya worried about his master's work, he would become extremely negative, Suzuno spoke to him like she was comforting him,

“Ashiya, do you have time today? I have something to discuss with you and Nord-dono later.”

“Why so sudden?”

It was rare for Suzuno to actively look for Ashiya to discuss things, and she even said in a rather cheerful manner,

“It's not anything major. Since it's the rare occasion of Emilia's first day at work, I feel that it is a good opportunity to complete that plan which has been postponed for a long time.”

“That plan?”

Ashiya did not understand, Suzuno took out her phone and started to make a call.

“Please wait a moment. I want to contact Rika-dono as well, and Emerada-dono should still be here. As for Chiho-dono, it would be better to contact her after school ends.”

Ashiya did not understand what Suzuno was saying, and could only look at her in confusion.

※

To Maou, in a different way, the McDonalds in front of Hatagaya station was a place which made him feel safe just like Villa Rosa Sasazuka room 201.

An environment which he had to remain alert and work, made him remember the past where he ran around the battlefields in order to conquer the world, just by working, he was able to gain the bravery to go back to the basics.

However, just with one more human, changes occurred.

It felt like he was constantly being stared at, and he could not calm down at all.

As long as he was spoken to, he would feel like shuddering.

Because of her, not only his colleague Kawada whom he was closer to, even the other male employees gave him piercing stares, making him miserable.

“Maou-san, is this the way to change the orange juice syrup?”

“Y, yeah.....”

“Maou-san, the paperbags for takeaway seem to be running out, can I replenish them?”

“Y, yeah.....”

“Maou-san, two pieces of cloth used to wipe the tables and chairs are really worn out, can I write them off and take out new ones?”

“.....
.....Y
eah.”

Standing next to Maou, with her hair tied up in a high ponytail like Kisaki, and working efficiently with an aura like a seasoned worker on her first day, was Emi.

Because Kisaki found out that both of them already knew one another, Maou was unable to escape the fate of being in charge of Emi’s newcomer training.

Other than Kisaki, there were other employees who also have an impression of Emi, and added to the fact that Emi was considered a pretty lady in appearance, the male employees, with Kawada at the head, naturally protested strongly against Maou being in charge of this, and even seriously gathered to give him trouble.

Kawada, who had honestly told Maou that he was looking for a wife----

“You better live too well and die.”

said this mercilessly to Maou in the employee room. To the king of the Demon World, this was really regretful.

Even though another young lady besides Emi had been hired, and Kawada was in charge of guiding her, should it be said that it was like normal, that lady was already married.

Even though Maou did not wish to guide Emi at all, he still had to admit that Emi was an extremely outstanding newcomer.

After all, once she was taught something, she would definitely not forget.

Forget about basic speaking technique, even business supplies like the tray paper and serviette, or tomato sauce, mustard sauce, syrup, milk and other accompanying ingredients, their names, placement location and time of replenishment were grasped perfectly.

Perhaps because she had the experience of handling customers over the phone where the other party's face could not be seen, Emi was more lively and cheerful greeting customers when she was face to face with them, causing Kisaki to immediately compliment her intonation.

Since just now, she only asked Maou some questions about the habits or standards within the store, and once she was clear about these, Emi was able to independently complete these processes.

Emi's work performance and memory was that outstanding.

"Maa-kun."

".....Yes."

Seeing Emi like this, Kisaki spoke into Maou's ear,

"Ask Yusa-san to eat all the items on the menu as soon as possible."

It looks like Emi was still not at the point where Kisaki would give her a nickname on the first day, but even so, Maou knew very well that Kisaki

wanted Emi to experience all the items within the store because Kisaki acknowledged her ability.

“I wonder if her training would be able to end quickly.....sigh.”

Maou watched Emi take out two new pieces of cloth from the storeroom in a depressed manner.

“What is it? Maou-san, is there anything strange?”

“Eh? Ah, no, no, it’s nothing.”

“Is that so?”

Emi suddenly turned back and looked towards Maou.

She probably discovered that Maou kept staring at her from behind.

Maou did not do anything suspicious, so even if he was found out, there was nothing for him to feel frantic about, even so, Emi had only started working for a few hours and Maou’s spirit had already been depleted to its limit.

After all, that mouth which had insulted him as a ‘bloodthirsty demon lower than a globin’, was actually addressing him as ‘Maou-san’ now.

It would seem too frivolous if he kept telling her to call him by name, and for reasons like being unable to set an example to the customers and the other employees, Maou was finally able to escape the fate of being addressed as ‘Sadao-senpai’.

However, as a junior in terms of position, Emi could not call him ‘Maou’ directly like normal in front of other employees, so it was decided to address him as ‘Maou-san’ like what was done just now.

Even though Maou did not feel anything when being addressed as such by Chiho and the other people, for unknown reasons, his hair will stand only when he was addressed as such by Emi.

After using the cloth to wipe the collected trays, Emi intentionally walked past Maou when she put the trays back and said to him softly,

“Hey, Demon King.”

“W, what is it.....”

“I know you don’t want to work together with me, but the feeling you’re giving people right now is really bad, wouldn’t this cause trouble for the store?”

“.....!”

Emi said so softly, Maou widened his eyes in surprise, and then----

“U, ughhh.....”

started to show a stiff smile like he wanted something.

“A newcomer who has just joined actually speaking to me rudely, hm? Alright.....”

After Maou mumbled this in a low volume, his eyes instantaneously lit up, and a professional smile appeared on his face.

“Yusa-san.”

“Y, yes?”

Because she noticed that Maou suddenly showed a strange smile, Emi stepped back a bit on reflex.

Even though it was during working hours, when Emi was addressed as ‘Yusa-san’ by Maou a few times today, she also felt a little strange.

Because Maou was always very rough when he normally called her by name, so once he considered the employees and his status as the senior and addressed Emi with ‘san’, the latter felt her hair stand.

“Since you said such a thing.....even though Kisasi did not give any special instructions, I will try my best to teach everything I can teach you within the time allowed, is that alright?”

“A, alright? To be able to be guided by an experienced senior is something I find most welcome.”

“Well said, Yusa-san!”

“I’m flattered, Maou-san!”

““Heh heh heh heh heh heh heh heh heh!””

“W, what’s wrong with the both of them.....”

Kawada who happened to pass by the scene, felt that the space around Maou and Emi seemed to be distorted by a strange aura and rubbed his eyes in response.

“Good! I won’t hold back at all! The first is the method of using the ice cream machine to make desserts! If you cannot learn this, you will always be treated as a newcomer!”

“Bring it on! I will make it no matter what!”

“Listen well, I will only say this once! Before touching the handle of the ice cream machine, you have to use this alcohol antibacterial mist to clean both hands! And you have to wipe your wrists as well!”

“Is there a need for you to say that!”

“Listen! First is the 100 yen cone ice cream which can be added to the meal! MgRonalds cone ice cream needs to be turned two and a half rounds in the cone! Watch carefully, in order to do the ‘pointy part’ at the front, a little trick is needed! Before being able to learn that, it can only be considered half baked!”

“Hmph! Don’t look down on the working class! Many restaurants come with an ice cream maker now, if you think I have no experience at all, you’ll have a hard time you know?”

“Hah! Stop with the jokes! If you view Mags cone ice cream on the same level as normal drink bars, I will be troubled, yeah? The milk used by

MgRonalds cone ice cream is 100% manufactured in Hokkaido! Even though the texture is smooth, the contents are dense and melts easily, being able to turn two and a half rounds is not an easy thing to do, yeah?”

“What in the world are they doing.....”

Kawada shrugged, and kept his distance from Maou and Emi who were so worked up that it was not clear if they were arguing or going through training.

Different from Kawada who did not understand the situation, an earnest gaze watched the situation between the two of them from outside the store.

“.....That’s great, anyway, it looks like everything is still going rather smoothly.”

Of course, that was Chiho.

Even though Emi had been discovered hiding outside the store as she observed Maou and Chiho’s situation, the positions were reversed this time, suddenly worried that Maou and Emi might argue after school, Chiho still came here even though she had no shifts scheduled, and hid behind the trees watching over them.

Even if it was outside the store, it can be seen that both their emotions were getting more and more worked up, but it was at least different from before where they drew their weapons on each other and looked like they were going to quarrel, causing Chiho to breathe a sigh of relief.

Even though it was almost dinnertime, a person will still get hungry once they are relieved, just as Chiho wanted to take this chance to enter and observe the situation as a customer----



Her mobile phone which was placed in the pocket of her blazer started vibrating, and she flipped it open.

“Eh? Strange? Maou-san?”

The call displayed on the screen was Maou, who was logically training Emi in the store right now.

After she tried to connect the call----

“Hello, is it Sasaki-san? It’s me, Ashiya.”

Ashiya’s voice was heard inside.

“So it was Ashiya-san! I was thinking that even though Maou-san is in the store, why would he call me.”

“Because of some reasons, Demon King-sama’s mobile phone is currently in my possession. Have you ended school and preparing to go home?”

“Ah, yeah. I happen to be front of the store right now because I am worried about Maou-san and Yusa-san, they seem to be doing well.”

“I see. That’s good. Then again, Sasaki-san, can I ask you something?”

“Yeah.”

“Do you know if Kisaki-san is in the store today?”

“Eh? Kisaki-san?”

Ashiya's unexpected question caused Chiho to confirm it again.

“That’s right, if she is in the store, I have a favour to ask of her, if she’s not around, then we can only arrange for another day.....”

“P, please wait a moment, let me check the shift timetable.”

Chiho took a notebook out from her bag, and opened up the shift timetable which was always folded inside.

“Uh.....ah, Kisaki-san is on the latest shift today, w, which means that she is staying till closing time. Maou-san is also staying till closing time. Yusa-san is still in training, so she should be getting off work at 10pm.....ah, after Yusa-san goes home, only Maou-san and Kisaki-san will be left in the store. Like this, the café counter will stop their services for the time being. Recently, when there are very little people at night, when there are customers, they will go up with the customer and take the order.”

“I see. Please wait a moment.....hey, Bell, Sasaki-san said shop manager Kisaki is around.”

Ashiya seemed to be with Suzuno, the conversation with other people including Ashiya and Suzuno could be heard from the other end of the line.

“Sorry for the wait. Then, Sasaki-san.”

“Yes.”

“If Bell picks you up at 10pm today, will you be able to go out?”

“Eh?”

Ashiya’s words surprised Chiho a little.

“Damn.....it.....”

Maou kneeled weakly on the ground.

“Hmph.”

On the other hand, Emi was looking down at Maou in an awe-inspiring manner like she was showing off her victory.

The first floor counter at 10pm at night.

Because it was still the first day, Emi was able to get off work now, she was being summoned by Kisaki together with Maou to discuss about the status of the training today.

“So, how was the first day?”

Kisaki glanced sideways at Maou, and asked Emi as she held back her smile.

“Because Maou-san taught me many things, it felt like my first day was very fruitful.”

“Ugh.”

Maou was unable to respond to this sentence at all.

After that, Emi had completely mastered the usage of the ice cream machine.

Learning how to handle all the desserts which had to be made using the ice cream machine in one day was an abnormal thing on its own.

Not only that, even though it was not something most newcomers would learn on their first day, Emi would take notes whenever she thought that there was a need to do so, she seemed to be perfectly grasped Maou’s explanation, and completed the dismantling and cleaning of the machine based on oral explanations.

“But, since it is still the first day, there are still many items on the item which I do not understand that well. From tomorrow, I will continue to humbly ask Maou-san for advice.”

“That’s what she said, what do you think Maa-kun?”

“Uh, erhm.....”

Maou raised his head tiredly, glanced at Emi and said,

“Honestly.....it’s very perfect. Besides learning quickly, as her previous job was telephone customer service, the customers served by her had good reactions.”

“You’re right, I also noticed this as well. How should I say this, it feels very presentable.”

“You’re too kind. Thank you for your praise.”

Emi said her thanks prudently.

“From this, perhaps she can be in charge of the counter very soon.”

Maou, who wanted to be freed from Emi as quickly as possible, said this in a half-serious and half-joking manner.

“Yeah, ignoring that point first, perhaps because you lack experience, that’s why you appear to be especially careful. I hope that you would be able to work as hard as today, or maybe more than that.....even though it’s not that appropriate to say this sentence in front of the person himself, you might have a chance to surpass Maa-kun’s legend.”

“Ughh. How can this be.....”

Kisaki said so directly, causing Maou to hold his head and shout like he had been pierced in the heart once again by the formless words.

Maa-kun’s legend refers to the incident where the hourly pay was increased by 100 yen one month after the training period.

If it was surpassed by Emi, whether as an employee of MgRonalds or as the Demon King, it would not something which could be solved just by feeling regretful.

“Anyway, I should congratulate you for successfully going through your first day. Thank you for the hard work.”

“Yes, thank you.”

Emi smiled and bowed lightly to Kisaki and prepared to leave the employee room.

“Ah, oh yes.”

Kisaki stopped Emi from behind.

“Yusa-san, excuse me, when you finished changing your clothes, can you spare me some of your time?”

“Alright, is there anything you need?”

“Just change your clothes first. I’ll talk about the details later. Maa-kun, I’m going to make a call.”

“Yes.....?”

Maou and Emi looked at each other, but Emi still left the employee room in the end to change her clothes.

On the other hand, Kisaki picked up the handset of the store phone and quickly pressed in a few numbers.

“.....Hello, Chi-chan? This is Kisaki. Is it convenient now? Yeah. It seems to be fine, though just barely. Ten minutes later? I understand, I’ll wait for all of you.”

“.....Is that call to Chi-chan? Is something happening 10 minutes later?”

“Yeah, you’ll know later. Even though I should not say this, you better pray that a large number of customers will not suddenly come for the time being.”

“O, oh.....”

These words which were not normally heard from Kisaki made it difficult for Maou to hide his confusion.

“Just in time.”

“What is it?”

Kisaki did not answer Emi’s question, and glanced at the entrance of the store.

Maou and Emi, following Kisaki’s gaze----

““Eh?””

got a shock from the group of people who walked in by opening the automated doors.

With Chiho at the front, Ashiya, Suzuno, Nord, Alas=Ramus, Acies, Emerada and Rika, have came over.

“Good evening! Yusa-san, Maou-san!”

“Sorry for disturbing.”

“Excuse me.”

“Thank you.”

“MgRonron!”

“Hello, everyone.”

“Thanks for the hard work~~”

“Yo! Emi! You’ve worked hard!”

The group of people greeted Maou and Emi one after another, causing the both of them to be momentarily flustered, but for unknown reasons, Kisaki seemed to walk towards Chiho like it was natural and pointed towards the second floor.

“Even though it is considered unfortunate for the store, all of you are rather lucky, there are no customers on the second floor right now. Even though all of you cannot stay for very long, you can close the innermost two tables.”

“Alright! Thank you for accepting our difficult request!”

“It’s nothing, as long as all of you repay it by working later on. Alright, go up quickly. Even though that will not be a lot of customers at this time, I would

not be able to handle it by myself for too long. Maa-kun, as well as Yusa-san.”

Kisaki put on her cap, turned and spoke to Maou and Emi,

“Lead the customers to the innermost tables on the second floor. Then I will stay at the counter downstairs for the time being.”

“Eh? Eh? Em, father and Rika are all here, what is going on.....”

“L, lead? Kisaki-san, what is.....”

“Let’s go, Maou-san, if not the other customers will come.”

“Let’s go as well, Emi! If we take our time, it will cause trouble to Shop Manager-san.”

Chiho and Rika grabbed the hands of Maou and Emi who have not recovered from their flustered states, and brought them to the second floor.

Just like this, the both of them were brought to a guest free, in other words, to the innermost tables of the second floor which had no customers at all.

“Come, Emi, sit next to Chiho-chan.”

Then Emi was arranged to sit at the seat next to Chiho who was the first to sit down.

In front of the two people was a box which had been wrapped. Looking at it carefully, the MgRonalds logo was printed on top of the packaging.

“Can, can this be.....”

Once Maou saw the logo, he shouted in surprise like he discovered something.

“D, don’t tell me you involved Kisaki-san as well, and at this place, you want to.....”

“This is Chi-chan and MgRonalds’ version. Shop Manager-san only agreed because of this. Come, time is limited, let start quickly! Ashiya-san, please open that!”

“I understand.”

Under Rika’s instructions, Ashiya quickly tore open the item which had been covered in wrapping paper.

Inside the wrapping paper was a pure white box. However, a slight fragrance wafted from within.

Until now, Emi had not grasped the situation, Rika stretched her hands towards the box from the side.

“Emi, Chiho-chan.”

“Eh? Eh?”

“Here!”

Faced with Rika addressing her, Emi became more flustered, while Chiho responded energetically.

Then Rika saw the right moment and opened up the box.

“Happy Birthday!”

“.....Ugh!”

In this instant, Emi sucked in a breath forcefully and used both her hands to cover her mouth.

What appeared from the box was a simple looking cake.

Different from normal cakes, a huge MgRonalds logo was drawn in the middle, and a white chocolate ‘Happy Birthday’ piece was stuck in the middle.

“Chiho-chan, this, this is.....”

Emi asked Chiho with the surprised expression still on her face, her voice was already trembling like her shaken heart.

“Even though there is some disparity from the agreed plan, and more accurately, it’s not a birthday as well.”

Chiho nodded shyly.

“But today is a new start for Yusa-san, so everyone thought that holding it today would be the most appropriate.”

“A, all of you.....”

Emi looked at everyone who had gathered with obviously moist eyes.

“Oh my, even though I also thought it was a good idea when I got contacted by Suzuno, it was still too much of a short notice, so we only got this cake after a lot of effort.”

“T, that’s right, this cake should only be bought at branch stores which can hold birthday parties right? And I remember that it needs to be ordered beforehand!”

“You are correct.”

Ashiya answered Maou’s questions.

“So this cake isn’t an official product from MgRonalds. We asked the baker from a cake shop to help us make some adjustments. This completely breaks the rules of the store, which would be bringing in food from outside.”

“Wha.....y, you.....”

“But, Kisasi-san said that as long as the outside appearance of the cake is a MgRonalds product, and another condition is fulfilled, she can allow us to hold this activity.”

“W, what condition?”

“She said that as long as everyone orders a meal of more than 600 yen each, she can allow us to use this place for 30 minutes.”

Rika added on more explanations after Ashiya and even though Maou was shocked, he still remembered the procedures of MgRonalds birthday parties.

“Then again, the MgRonalds birthday parties did set a rule that all participants have to at least order one meal each.....”

“And after listening to Emerada-dono explain the calendar differences between that place and this world, we know that Emilia’s birthday in Ente Isla is equivalent to next week here----and after converting to the calendar system here, it would be 25th October.”

“Bell, is, is that so?”

“That’s right. Emi, I heard Emerada say.....that this is actually your 18th birthday?”

In order to avoid this being heard by Kisaki downstairs, Rika asked with a softer volume.

“I got a shock. Seeing you being so liberal and dignified normally, I can’t imagine that you’re actually younger than me. Ah, even so, if you talk to me too respectfully in the future, I’ll get angry, okay?”

“Rika.....yeah, thank you. Thank you.....uu!”

Large tears started to flow from Emi’s eyes.

“Chiho-chan, I.....”

“Yusa-san.”

Without even wiping her tears, Emi hugged Chiho next to her tightly.

Chiho returned Emi’s hug and spoke softly into her ear,

“Welcome back. And, happy birthday to you.”

“Thank you.....Chiho-chan, I’m sorry, returning so late. Thank you for waiting for me.....! I wish you happy birthday as well!”

Emi’s tears flowed silently, affected by Emi, tears also pooled in the corners of Chiho’s eyes.

Seeing the tears of both girls, Nord mumbled,

“Emilia.....made good friends.”

“That’s right~~”

Emerada also watched Emi and Chiho tenderly.

“Alright! We don’t have much time, so let’s quickly proceed with things! Before the customers downstairs find out, let’s get on with the program of giving presents!”

“Eh, ah, hm, but I, did not prepare anything for Chiho-chan.....”

“Since it’s a surprise, of course Emi would not have any time to prepare anything! About that, you can settle it on your own later! Come, first is Suzuno and the others.”

“Yeah. This is what I picked out together with Nord-dono, Emerada-dono and Ashiya.”

“Eh? Ashiya, what exactly are you doing ow?”

Maou, who did not know about Ashiya’s activities in the day, was about to raise questions about Ashiya participating in picking out Emi’s birthday present----

“The Demon King who cannot read the atmosphere~~will be folded finely and thrown out like trash okay~~?”

Emerada beside him kicked his lower thigh once and spit out a vague threat.

“Thank you. What is this.....eh?”

At this moment, finally noticing something, Emi rubbed her tears and stared at Suzuno.

“Bell.....your attire is.....”

“Y, yeah.”

“It’s cute right? This was chosen by Chiho and me.”

“I, I think it’s not too strange, what do you think?”

Suzuno, who held out the present, was not wearing her normal kimono.

Today, she was wearing a dark blue flared skirt with beige coloured boots. Underneath the loose beige thin wool sweater, there was a striped blouse with dark blue as its base colour, in other words, it was western attire.

“It’s not strange at all! It’s really cute!”

“Is, is that so? Erhm, because everyone said if other customers are around when we are having the celebration, me wearing a kimono will attract too much attention, so I dressed up like this for the first time.....hm, honestly, I can’t calm down with this kind of fluttering skirt, but luckily it’s not too strange.”

Suzuno spoke vaguely with a red face, but immediately came to her senses and passed the boxes containing the presents to Emi and Chiho once again.

“D, don’t mind me! Anyway, please take this!”

“Yeah, thank you. But, you’re really dressed very nicely.”

“T, that’s enough!”

After showing a smile to Suzuno who rarely became shy, Emi carefully took the packaging apart.

“It’s a photo frame. Such a cute design!”

Emi opened up the packaging, and after taking out a blue glass photo frame with a water bird decoration, she shouted out happily.

“When we were wondering what to buy, Alsiel unexpectedly suggested a good idea.”

“Alsiel?”

“Didn’t I say before that there was no need to say it out?”

Even though Ashiya’s face showed a stony expression because he was suddenly mentioned, Emi’s gaze looked like she would only be satisfied if someone explained, so he started speaking unhappily,

“.....You reunited with your father after a long time, so you should have a lot of memories which you wish to keep in the future. I just said it might be quite good to pick something like that.”

“Hm.....that’s true, you’re right.”

Emi nodded lightly and hugged the photo frame.

“What we bought for Chiho-dono was the same design in a different colour. We hope both of you like it.”

“Wow! It’s one set?”

Chiho carefully opened up the packaging of the present which was passed to her, and took out a pink glass photo frame in the same design as Emi’s.

“It’s really one set!”

“I’m really happy! But.....at the same time, I feel a little frustrated.”

“Eh?”

“Should I say as expected of Ashiya-san.....or we are thinking of the same thing.”

After saying this, Chiho passed her present to Emi in embarrassment.

“Actually, I also got you a photo frame.”

After saying this, Chiho took out a present a whole size larger than what Suzuno prepared.

After Emi opened it in the same careful manner, and realised what Chiho chose was a design with a metal outer frame with flower patterns painted around it and could hold a few photos.

“I hope that Yusa-san will be able to leave many good memories, so I choose this. In the end, I repeated what Ashiya-san did.”

“Chiho.....Chiho-chan’s thoughts is already a precious enough present. I really thank you. I will take it out and display it. Really, thank you, all of you.”

Emi put Chiho’s photo frame on the table and hugged Chiho again.

“Heh heh heh, how close. Actually I wanted to buy to photo frame too.”

Rika, who went last, took out a box which had an obvious difference in thickness from the two presents before.

“But, when I thought to that point, I suddenly got an inspiration! Alright, Emi! Accept my true feelings!”

“Thank you, I’m opening it.”

Emi accepted the slightly heavy box and opened it carefully.

What was packaged inside was something which looked like a wooden box. Other than the fact that a brass winder was protruding out from the side, a music note was carved on the lid of the box.

“This is a music box right?”

“That’s right! Open it and take a look!”

After opening the lid on Rika’s prompting, Emi noticed that there was a glass panel space embedded on the inside of the lid.

“You can put a photo there!”

Rika had said this happily.

“It’s still a photo frame in the end!”

But after Maou’s rebuke, she immediately said this in a depressed manner,

“But~considering Emi’s current situation, everyone will think of this no matter what right? Ah, Maou-san, thank you for your rebuke.”

Rika tapped her own forehead with a wry smile.

“But, this is mainly still a music box. Look at the part with the song name.”

Emi looked at the place Rika instructed and discovered that ‘Happy Birthday to You’ was engraved on the music box.

“Rika, this is.....”

“We can’t let everyone sing a birthday song here. But, I still prepared music which included these kinds of feelings. Yeah, when you go back later, you can listen to it.”

This sentence caused Emi to have to suppress the urge to turn the winder on the spot to listen to the song containing Rika’s thoughts and feelings.

“Then, I’m giving this to Chiho-chan. I am confident that this is something which only I can give you!”

“Eh? I have one too?”

Perhaps she did not expect Rika to give her a present, Chiho asked this in surprise.

“Because Suzuno told me in detail that this is a joint birthday party! Alright, open it and take a look!”

“A, alright, thank you.....ah!”

What Rika gave Chiho, was a bottle of perfume.

The name of the bottle with a well known brand printed on it was as expected, ‘Happy Birthday’.

Rika whispered in secret into Chiho’s ear,

“Even though I don’t know if the smell is to your liking, I hope that you can take this as my encouragement to you.”

“Uh, erhm.....”

Chiho nervously listened to Rika explain,

“For the sake of your dream, an adult makeup product should be prepared so you can polish your femininity for the person you like!”

“Su, Suzuki-san!”

Once Rika looked towards Maou standing beside them, Chiho shouted in a flustered manner.

“Ne, Chi-nee chan! Here! Here!”

This time it was Nord’s and Alas=Ramus’s turn.

“Mama, Chi-nee chan, happy birthday!”

When Alas=Ramus was saying the birthday greeting, Nord took out a slightly wrinkled piece of drawing paper.

But after seeing the picture on it, Emi and Chiho instantly showed happy smiles.

It was the two of them drawn in a large amount of crayon by Alas=Ramus who put in a lot of effort.

On the green ground, a large rectangle was drawn using brown, and the both of them were standing in front of that place.

Even without specially confirming it, it can be seen that it was Chiho and Emi standing in front of Villa Rosa Sasazuka.

The picture which Alas=Ramus did her best in drawing had enough charisma to capture the hearts of all the adults.

“This child has an artist’s talent.”

Nord said with a smile.

“This was something she completed and was happy with after drawing a few of them.”

“I want every single piece.”

“Me too. If not, I will have to fight with Chiho-chan for this one.”

Emi took one more look at Alas=Ramus's drawing with adoration, then looked at everyone who had gathered.

“Everyone.....I'm really thankful. I will definitely, not forget what happened today.....”

“No, wait a moment. Emi, it's too early for thanks. There's still someone who hasn't expressed anything yet?”

“Eh?”

Rika unexpectedly stopped Emi.

Watching carefully, some distance away from the others, Acies was using her elbow to push Maou, who looked a little embarrassed.

“Ne, Maou. What you bought before, wasn't it the presents you prepared for today?”

“.....Noisy. I didn't know that there would be such an event beforehand. How could I have them with me.....”

Maou said this unhappily and planned to leave the scene, but he was stopped by Suzuno.

“Are you looking for this?”

In Suzuno's hands were three packaged thin boxes.

Seeing this, Maou showed a stony face.

“You, don’t tell me you.....”

“Acies said that the Demon King also bought something to give to Chiho-dono and Emilia. Which was why I asked Ashiya to find these things which were hidden deep within the cupboard of the Demon Fortress.”

“Eh?”

“You seemed to have bought it when you were acting separately from me and Alberto-dono. I heard they were souvenirs which you planned to give to Chiho-dono and Emilia.”

“Acies, why youuuuuu!”

“But----! This is what you said yourself kuhhhh!”

Maou grabbed Acies’s shoulders and shook her with force, but a force grabbed onto Maou’s neck and pulled him away from Acies.

Suzuno, who pulled Maou in front of Emi and Chiho, moved the three wrapped boxes in front of Maou’s eyes, showed a bold smile and spoke softly in Maou’s ear,

“Seeing that you’re sincere about this, I will not tell everyone that you bought this with my money.”

“Ugh.....”

Maou submitted to Suzuno’s threat and accepted the wrapped presents.

“But how did you wrap it so nicely.....because it had dropped into a pond, it was not packaged when I brought it back.....”

“Alsiel is a capable man. I just gave him cardboard and wrapping paper and he packaged them beautifully!”

Maou glared at Ashiya because of Suzuno’s answer, but the latter subtly turned in an unrelated direction.

It was obvious what was in the packaging, it was the wooden handmade spoons which Maou bought with Suzuno’s money on the suburbs of Azure Sky Canopy.

A flower diagram was carved on Chiho’s spoon, as the spoons which Emi and Alas=Ramus will use together had bird diagrams. With this trend, Maou would be the last person to give the gifts, and this made him feel very embarrassed.

He did not expect that Suzuno and the others would hold such a sudden event.

And after seeing the scene just now, Maou felt that the presents which he chosen on a whim had the least amount of sincerity.

“.....Uh, this.”

However, the current atmosphere did not allow him to withdraw.

Maou made up his mind, and held the presents in front of Chiho and Emi.

“I bought these for this purpose, so, just take it. Alas=Ramus’s share is included with Emi’s, there are two.....things which I heard would bring good luck.”

Maou said with a voice lacking in motivation.

Emi and Chiho accepted the presents which Maou passed over with a blank look on his face.

“Can I open it?”

“.....Since it’s a gift, of course you can.”

Maou said unhappily, Emi and Chiho opened their packages.

““Ah.....””

After the both of them saw what was inside, they shouted in surprise at the same time.

“Ohh? What is this?”

“What’s that~~?”

Rika and Emerada looked at what was in Chiho and Emi’s hands from beside them in curiosity.

“Ohh, it’s feels nice.”

“Yeah~~isn’t it really cute~~”

The two of them exclaimed before the birthday girls.

It was a handmade spoon carved from wood.

Chiho paid attention to the flower carving made from five huge petals and sighed lightly,

“Such a unique design.....it looks, beautiful.”

Emi also compared the two spoons with the same bird carvings but slightly different shape, and said in awe,

“This is the first one I’ve seen this. From how there are no signs of assembling, it should have been carved from one block of wood. Did you find this in Afashan?”

“Yeah, that’s right.....because it’s still a practical item.”

“This is so pretty that it would be a pity to use it. Thank you, Maou-san. I’m going to treasure it. But instead of using it, I’m going to treat it as an ornament.”

“Yeah, as long as you like it.”

Chiho gave Maou a happy smile, Maou placed his hand on the brim of his cap and lowered his gaze a little.

“It’s really so beautiful that it should be a decoration.”

Emi seemed to really agree with Chiho's thoughts, took both spoons with her hands----

“Thank you. I will treasure it properly.”

and said this to Maou.

“.....Yeah.”

On the contrary, Maou could only answer softly with a groan squeezed from deep within his throat.

Chiho, Suzuno and Ashiya, looked at that kind of Maou while harbouring different feelings.

“.....Now then, even though the atmosphere is so good, it's about time for us to disperse.”

At this moment, Rika announced while looking at her watch.

“We already exceeded by about 5 minutes, I feel sorry for shop manager-san if we stay any longer, so let's clean up and place our orders. Let's settle the cake and candles when we return. For everyone's dinner tonight, it is mandatory to settle it with Mags! Ah, for Maou-san, please work hard until you knock off!”



“All of you don’t have to specially wait for me to return.”

Just this time, Maou was especially thankful for Rika’s blunt judgement.

If he continued accepting Emi’s honest gratitude, his spirit might not be able to handle it.

The group frantically kept the cake back in the box, Emi and Chiho also troubled over how to keep the gifts into their bags, and when everyone besides Maou completed their orders and left, it was almost 11pm.

Maou, the only one who stayed back to continue working, said his thanks softly to Kisaki’s back as she was preparing to close up,

“I’m sorry for causing you so much trouble.”

“Yeah.”

Kisaki nodded without even turning around.

“All of you contributed a significant amount of profit during this time where there aren’t a lot of customers, so I’m thankful as well. And even if you brought food from outside, all of you did not eat it inside the store.”

“That’s true.”

“Ah, that’s right, I want to tell you something first.”

“Yes?”

Kisaki, who was not so concerned about what had already happened, turned and faced Maou like she thought of something.

“Even though it’s a good thing to have many kinds of friends of the opposite gender.....”

“Yes?”

For reasons unknown, Kisaki’s eyes narrowed like she was glaring at Maou.

“But you better not do anything stupid which will cause Chi-chan and Yusa-san to stab you from behind, okay? You’re always rather sloppy in how you treat females, and you seem to think naively that it’s alright to do anything to them.....”

“Eh?”

“Anyway, that’s all I wanted to say. Go back to work.”

“Nonono, Kisaki-san? You seem to have a major misunderstanding, things aren’t like that!”

“Shut up. From the eyes of a bystander, it feels that what Kawa-cchi said makes some sense.”

“What did that guy say?”

“Go ask him yourself. Recently, you are probably having a hard time within the male employees.”

“Please spare me!”

“You brought it upon yourself.”

“I didn’t do anything at all!”

Under the dazzling moonlight, the scream of the King of Demons echoed from the store in front of Hatagaya station to the night streets.

Maou tiredly pushed Dullhan II and walked on the night streets of Sasazuka.

“This is probably.....the most tiring day in history.....”

It was already draining enough on the spirit to guide Emi during training, and unexpectedly, there was a surprise birthday party.

Wrong, Chiho and Emi’s joint birthday party was a plan which already existed very early on, and Maou himself had planned to celebrate Chiho’s birthday and do Emi a favour which would make her unhappy.

(T/N: In case the phrasing was unclear, Maou’s original plan was to celebrate Chiho’s birthday when Emi was also present, and perhaps give Emi the present under the excuse that he just happened to get extra, which he thought would make Emi unhappy.)

However, the condition was that Maou needed take the initiative, and there was nothing which made it more troublesome than playing along with the people like this time.

In addition----

“Thank you. I will treasure it properly.”

Emi actually said this.

If it was Emi from before, it would not be strange for her to reduce Maou's present to particles on the spot.

“What's up with her?”

Emi said that she was unable to forgive Maou while opening up her feelings more to Maou at the same time, causing him to have no idea on how to interact with her.

Some time back, he thought that it would be fine to interact with Emi just like how it was before.

However, he suddenly thought of something.

“What does it mean to be how it was before?”

Thinking about it carefully, Maou had never actively did anything to Emi.

Even though Emi actively bothered Maou with the excuse of monitoring the enemy, Maou had never thought of getting rid of Emi or investigating Emi's situation.

In fact, Maou did not even know where Emi lived.

Even though he knew that she lived in a condominium in Eifuku, Maou did not know the detailed address, and it never crossed his mind to find out.

At most, Maou would only say 'you're being bothersome' or 'go back' to Emi who came to his workplace or the apartment, and in addition to the fact that Emi was not an opponent he could match up to, he got used to Emi, whom he thought would not harm others, hovering around him very quickly.

Ever since Alas=Ramus appeared and caused Emi to be even more integrated into the normal lives of Maou and the others, situations where she was present became the natural state.

In the others, the 'relationship in the past' for Maou and Emi, would be Maou completely accepting whatever Emi did.

"What's wrong with me? Why can't I calm down at all."

"It's already so late, what are you being so noisy about on the streets."

A voice from a high place far away was heard calling out to Maou who had sat down next to the road.

".....I should be the one asking what you're doing over there. It's dangerous."

Maou frowned and turned to the owner of the voice.

During the time he was troubled over many things, he had already reached the area near the apartment without knowing.

“It’s not dangerous. Who do you think I am. Even if I fall down and hit the ground head first, I’ll be fine.”

On the roof of Villa Rosa Sasazuka, Acies was waving to Maou while looking at the stars in the sky.

“Seriously, whether it is demon or Hero, they would tell the person who is doing this that it’s dangerous and give a warning.

Maou shrugged and observed the situation at the apartment.

“Hey, Emi and the others.....”

“Everyone has returned home. Chiho has to go to school tomorrow, Rika has to go to work. Emi also took Onee-san and went back.”

“I, I see.....”

Maou could not help but breath a sigh of relief and looked at his watch.

It was close to 1am now, so even if it’s Chiho, she could not stay at Suzuno’s place for two days in a row.

“What are you mumbling about.”

“Hey, your voice is too loud.”

Acies, who spoke to Maou from the roof of the apartment, did not specially lower her volume. Considering the current time, Suzuno and Nord were probably asleep, so Maou hoped that she would be softer.

“Because we’re far apart, so I can’t help it.”

Acies was not concerned about this at all, and clapped her hands like she remembered something.

“I just have to make Maou come here. Yosh!”

“Eh? Oh, wah?”

The next moment, Maou did not even have the time to set up the stand for Dullahan II before he started floating in the air.

“Come here, yosh.”

Acies skillfully controlled Maou in the air, and forcefully bought him next to her, sitting on the hard tile of the roof.

“T, that was scary.....”

“You’re the Demon King, don’t get a fright because you flew a little bit.”

“If it was suddenly being hung up by someone, anyone would get a fright!”

Maou protested a little but Acies was not concerned about such a small matter.

“Then, what troubles do you have? You can tell me anything.”

“I haven’t been cornered to the point where I have to talk to you about it.”

“Ugh, it feels like I’m being looked down upon?”

“If you know that, then don’t ask any unnecessary things. Men also have times where they have to be troubled on their own.”

“This seems to be called being rubbish for having no good plans.”

“This seemed to have become a more negative statement by only changing one word!”

(T/N: The original term translated to Chinese would be 煩惱, which is feeling troubled because one does not have good ideas to solve the problem. But because Acies changed 煩 to 廢, it became something even worse than the original meaning.)

Maou could not help but sigh and lie to the side, but because the roof was steeper than expected and the tiles were hard, he decided to get up again.

“.....I’m feeling troubled over human relationships.”

“Hm? What? You finally decided to marry Chiho?”

The next moment, Maou almost fell off the roof.

“Who told you this kind of nonsense!”

“Uh, because when we were eating, Rika said that Maou is a sinful man.”

“Those words from the lady who likes to heat things up, you should only listen to half of it!”

“Half? So it’s not marriage, but a concubine puu!”

“That’s not called half, and that has nothing to do with half at all, then again where did you learn those words from! It’s not funny even if it was supposed to be a joke!”

“Even then, there’s no need to hit me!”

Acies protested with tears in her eyes while pressing the back of her head, angrily scolding Maou.

“If I seek you out for a discussion, things will definitely be edited to a messed up manner and spread around, so I won’t tell you!”

“Seriously~I’m sorry. I will listen to you seriously.”

“I’m not going to believe you anymore! Then again, why are you still here this late.”

“Eh? Ah, yeah, because the moon is bright today, I’m looking at the sky.”

“Sky?”

“Yeah. I like to look at the sky at night. But the roof of Mi-chan’s house isn’t comfortable when sitting down, I decided to look at it here after looking for a long time.”

“Hey, don’t go to the roof of the landlady or anyone else’s.”

Maou frowned once he thought that Acies would loiter around the roofs of the nearby neighbours night after night and cause people to call the police to handle it.

“I won’t do that. I’m not an idiot!”

This was the first time he heard of it. But if he rebuked in this manner, it felt as if Acies will really get angry, so Maou could only think it.

“Were you planning to say something rude?”

“Your wild observation skills are really scary. Then again, what’s up with you.”

“What do you mean?”

“Since you specially pulled me up here, aren’t you looking for me for something?”

“.....Yeah~actually I do need something from you, or more like I want to report something.”

“Report?”

“Yeah.”

Acies frowned slightly and looked up at the moon in the sky.

“Gabriel woke up. It seems like he will be brought to the ‘discussion’ tomorrow.”

“.....Oh, he’s still alive huh.”

Maou nodded curtly.

“Eh? Your reaction is surprisingly normal?”

“Rather than normal, it’s more like I have no other thoughts about it.”

The guardian angel Gabriel of the origin of Alas=Ramus and Acies, ‘Yesod’, was brought to Japan under Shiba’s instructions.

But because of many reasons in Afashan, he was brought here in an unconscious state, and it was heard that he was unconscious for a longer time than Nord.

As to why it was heard was that different from Nord, he was being kept at Shiba’s house, so he did not appear in front of Maou and the others during this period of time, Maou also did not wish to specially know or ask after his physical condition.

Maou did not think that Shiba would leave Gabriel alone to fend for himself, and in some sense, compared to Maou or Emi, letting Shiba who possessed overwhelming power to protect him would be the best choice.

“I really want to send him to Hell again.”

“No, let me state this clearly just in case, he had never been to Hell before.”

Acies still disliked angels a lot. It was amazing that she was able to live with Gabriel in Shiba’s house in this state.

“Yeah, Mi-chan stopped me a few times already.”

“Did you do anything for her to have to stop you?”

“They did that kind of thing to us after all.....”

Acies frowned in emotional pain, and squatted down, hugging her knees.

“Not just me and Onee-san. Iron, ‘Malkuth’, everyone, everyone was.....”

“Acies.....?”

“Maou.”

“Yeah?”

“Even though I don’t know what you’re feeling troubled over, it would be better to clear things up with the other party when you still have the chance to do so.”

“.....”

“If not, perhaps it might be like me and Onee-san who were separated for a long----long time. So you have to properly grasp the chance when you are still able to say it.”

“Yeah.....”

Tomorrow was the day Shiba agreed to explain the whole truth to Maou and the others.

Even though it was not known why the location was set to be Urushihara's hospital room, the reason would be known very soon.

Maou had a feeling, at that time he would be forced to reveal some secrets he had hidden.

“Have you spoken to Alas=Ramus?”

“.....Yeah. In father's room, we spoke about many things.”

“I see.”

Maou warmly patted the place where he hit Acies just now.

“Since both of you were separated for so long, a short one week would not be enough to say everything which had accumulated in your heart. It's fine as long as both of you slowly talk about it from now on. Next time, if both of you are in trouble, Emi and I will protect you.”

“Yeah.....”

Acies let Maou pat her head and looked at Maou with a sad gaze.

“In the past.....”

“Hm?”

“In the past, it seemed like someone had said the same words as Maou.....”

“Said the same words as me?”

“Yeah. But, it was something which happened a long time ago, so I don’t remember it well.”

Acies gently pushed Maou’s hand away, got up and jumped down from the roof to the yard of the apartment.

“It’s good that I talked with you a little. See you tomorrow.”

“O, oh.....ah, hey, wait, Acies?”

After waving lightly, Acies walked back to Shiba’s house, Maou frantically shouted to her back, but Acies did not seem to have heard it and left directly.

“H, how am I supposed to get down.”

Even if the demonic magic was below him, carelessly using it might cause negative effects on Suzuno or Nord, and even if it only disturbed them, he will definitely receive complaints.

“C, can I get down.....”

Maou jitterly leaned over the eaves of the roof and after confirming the position of the narrow platform of the common staircase, he carefully stretched his legs towards that place.

“Demon King-sama, what are you doing over there?”

“Uowah?”

Maou, who got a fright from the voice coming from next to his feet, slipped and hung over the edge of the roof.

“W, what! So you’re still awake! Don’t scare me like that, Ashiya!”

Looking carefully, Ashiya was leaning out of the window of room 201 and looking in his direction in a bleary eyed manner.

“I’m the one who got a fright. I was thinking why there were strange noises on the roof.....and never expected that Demon King-sama would be the type do something melancholy like climbing up the roof and looking up at the sky.”

“Even though you seemed to have a serious misunderstanding, just give me a hand first!”

“Please let go and jump down.”

“Hey?”

“You’ll touch the ground in 5 centimetres. It would be fine even if you let go.”

“F, five centimetres? R, really? I’m going to let go. If I get hurt, it’ll be your fault okay!”

“.....Sigh.”

“Fu.....yosh! Ooh, what a fright.”

Maou breathed a sigh of relief when he touched the ground, seeing his master the Demon King be this nervous because of just five centimetres, Ashiya could only sigh.

“May I know what’s wrong with you? Do you dislike working with Emilia that much?”

“I feel melancholy! And it’s of a level of melancholy which I never felt before!”

On the other hand, Maou directly confessed to Ashiya’s words.

“I have never encountered a situation which I do not know what to do!”

“Sigh.....”

“With things like this, you might as well come to MgRonalds! And Suzuno and Nord can be asked to join in as well, might as well ask all the people from Ente Isla to work there! Like this, Kisasi-san will be the next generation ruler of Ente Isla!”

“Please do not lose hope like that. What exactly happened?”

“Nothing at all! Anyway, I’m tired! I’m hungry! I want to eat!”

Just as Maou showed a threatening attitude and prepared to enter the room----

“Demon King-sama, please park the bicycle properly first before going back.”

Ashiya pointed towards Dullahan II which fell over on the ground because of Acies, seeing this, Maou walked down the stairs unhappily.

“I will take this time to heat up the hamburger and fries, we can talk about things later.”

“You even bought my share! The lettuce will soften like that, so it’s fine to not reheat it! Seriously, I am the Demon King, why do I, the Demon King, have to be troubled over these kind of strange things, damn it!”

Maou said unhappily but he still obediently parked the bicycle properly before returning.

Even though there was an important ‘discussion’ tomorrow, because Ashiya expected that Maou would complain for a long time tonight, he sighed softly.

※

The colour of the sun and temperature made people think that autumn was coming, within the hospital ward surrounded by cream walls, Urushihara Hanzo was staring at the blue light on the computer screen which would not change at all with a frown on his face.

The night Maou, Suzuno and Aices set off to Ente Isla from the National Museum of Western Art.

Chiho planned to ask the shop manager of the Choshi beachhouse ‘Ooguroya’----the niece of the landlady Shiba Miki, Ooguro Amane about the mystery of Earth and Ente Isla, and Urushihara also discovered this.

Because he sensed that Chiho, from her words, wanted Urushihara to listen in from room 201, he thought that he should occasionally go along with someone else’s plan, but in the end, he ended up like this.

A second shockwave which he had never experienced before passed through his whole body and when he was about to lose consciousness, in a close to instinctive manner, he asked the person who entered the room to take the computer along.

“Then, what are you unhappy about? This place should be an ideal environment to Urushihara-kun right?”

“How is this ideal!”

Urushihara shouted at Ooguro Amane who sat in the chair next to his bed and turned on the television on her own to watch travelling shows.

“This is an individual room where no one will disturb you. Not only are Maou-kun and Ashiya-kun, the ones who are always nagging you to work, not around, there is someone who will settle your three meals for you. To you as a NEET, this should be an ideal environment right.”

“I am being disturbed by Amane-san everyday and the food here is so bland that it’s not nice, and the internet connection here is really bad! I say, even though Amane-san is like this as well, but society has a misunderstanding about NEETs.”

“Uh, does it have anything to do with being first rate?”

Amane leaned her chair backwards like a kid and asked without even looking at Urushihara.

“No. NEET and Hikikomori are people who are able to freely go out whenever they want but intentionally choose to stay at home. The choice of going out actually exists in some place in our hearts.”

“H, hm? In other words, when you are watching travelling shows like this, you would occasionally want to go out as well, or travel some place far away?”

“No. Even though I normally don’t want to go out, I also hate being locked indoors by others.”

“Even though it already sounds bad, but this sounds like you’re overly stubborn to the point that it’s admirable.”

“It can’t be helped, I am this kind of person after all.”

“And you phrasing things like that sounds too bad, it’s as if I am locking you inside this hospital ward.”

“It’s almost like that in actual fact right? I already said that I want to go back!”

Urushihara turned off the laptop which could not connect to the internet in frustration, and shouted angrily at Amane's back,

“But ignore the fact about whether I can freely go back! You guys must be punishing me for listening in to the conversation between you and Sasaki Chiho, so you turned my hair into this right! Even though I have asked countless times before, what kind of people are you! Did I hear something I am not supposed to!”

“Hm~didn’t I say so before? I am the daughter of ‘Understanding’, Aunt Michan is of a similar existence to Alas=Ramus-chan. And this has nothing to do with the reason why Urushihara-kun is staying here.”

“Not considering Amane-san, for Alas=Ramus and that landlady, besides the fact that they are both female and have a human appearance, they’re completely different from head to toe!”

“Oh my, in what way are we different?”

[illegible]

When Urushihara and Amane were arguing, the door of the hospital ward suddenly opened, causing Urushihara to jump out from his bed in fright.

“H, hey, Urushihara-kun, are you alright?”

In a flustered manner, Amane pulled up Urushihara who had fell to the floor, but Urushihara had spasms go through his whole body and said while grabbing onto Amane,

“W, why didn’t I hear that Landlady-san was coming today?”

“Eh? I didn’t tell you?”

“I didn’t hear about it at all!”

“Amane.....”

“Wrong! I mentioned it before? I have an impression that I should have said it before? Around 3 days ago!”

“You must have mentioned it in passing when you were doing other things. Urushihara-san, is your condition alright?”

“B, before Landlady-san came.....it was quite good.”

Urushihara replied like he was going to stop breathing any moment, his gaze was wavering and could not look directly at Shiba at all.

“E, even though it’s really rude to say that.....I finally truly understand why Maou and Ashiya are unable to look at Landlady-san directly.”

“I’ll just take it that I have that much charm.”

“Uuuu.....”

Even though Shiba was not shaken, to Urushihara-san, it was not a joke at all.

When he saw the photo in the past, Urushihara only felt that Shiba was someone who did not know her limits, behaved unscrupulously, a middle aged woman who was a little irritating.

But after seeing Shiba in the flesh, the problem was not about the level of dislike, strange things even starting occurring in his body.

Dizziness and heart palpitations were already considered rather good, just being face to face with her, Urushihara felt as if some important energy was leaking out continuously from deep within his body.

“Everyone is arriving soon, I only came up first to let both of you know.”

“Everyone refers to.....”

“Of course it refers to Maou-san and the others!”

“Eh? Maou and the others have returned?”

Even though Urushihara got a shock, he immediately glared at Amane next to him.

“Erhm.....”

Amane turned to the side as if she was escaping Urushihara’s gaze, all she had to do was whistle to complete the scene.

“I plan to explain after everyone has gathered. Regarding the Sephirah, the Tree of Life and Urushihara-san’s current state.”

“My.....”

Urushihara stopped looking at Amane, and got up from the bed.

There was a washbasin set up in the corner of the room, after taking one look at the mirror above the washbasin, he said with a frown.

“Sigh, after seeing this, everyone would probably get a shock.....ugh.”

Then suddenly feeling like throwing up, a groan was heard from deep within his throat.

※

Maou, Chiho, Emi, Alas=Ramus, Ashiya, Suzuno, Emerada, Acies and Nord alighted from three taxis which were lined up together.

“This is.....”

“Yeah.....”

Chiho and Maou, looking at the location after reaching the place via the taxis arranged by Shiba, they glanced at each other.

“Is it a coincidence?”

“It should not be.”

“But, other than being a coincidence.....”

Emi, Ashiya and Suzuno also looked up and surveyed the building in surprise.

“Is there something wrong~~?”

“What’s up with everyone?”

“Is there something wrong with this hospital?”

Emerada, Acies and Nord were confused at the strange reactions from the five people, and only Alas=Ramus in Emi’s arms replied simply,

“I’ve been here before!”

Alas=Ramus had an impression of this building.

The hospital Shiba and Amane arranged for Urushihara was the one Chiho went to when she had demonic magic poisoning, Saikai University Medical College Affiliated Hospital Tokyo Branch.

Even if they were confused, the group still followed Chiho who took the lead because she was familiar with the layout to a certain hospital ward, then they stopped and looked at the number of the ward.

“It’s here right.”

“I, it’s actually an individual hospital ward of this standard, what if they ask us for the medical fees later.....”

The door of the ward indicated by Chiho was some distance away from the ward next to it, so it could be seen that it should be very spacious, and even if the landlady had said before that there was no need to worry about the money, Ashiya’s face still instantly became very sour.

“I heard that not only is it allowed to use handphones and computers here, there is even an attached bathroom.”

“Looks like the environment is better than the Demon Fortress.”

Maou and Ashiya looked at each other with complex expressions on their faces, then made up their minds and knocked on the door of the ward.

“Please come in.”

“Ugh.”

Just hearing Shiba’s voice from inside, Maou and Ashiya’s expressions became even worse than before.

“Open the door already.”

With Emi prompting them from behind, the both of them had no choice but to take a deep breath and slowly open the door of the ward.

The room with good lighting was very bright. Inside was a bed which was a full size bigger than the bed Chiho used when she was in hospital, and after seeing a certain someone sitting on the bed unhappily, everyone besides Nord froze automatically.

“.....What kind of reaction is that.”

Even if the reactions of Maou and the others were what he expected, Urushihara, on the bed, still mumbled unhappily.

“Eh, ah, uh.....”

Maou looked at Ashiya behind him in a flustered manner, but Ashiya also----

“W, what is.....”

could only stare at Urushihara in a speechless manner.

“Is, is this some kind of joke? Is Lucifer trying to play a prank on us again?”

Suzuno also turned to Emi next to her in a troubled manner, seeking an agreement.

“No, but, saying that it’s a joke is too.....”

Emi, who was asked, shook her head in response.

“It feels~~different from the Lucifer I know~~”

Emerada put her hand under her chin and said this in a troubled manner.

“What’s wrong with Lucifer?”

Alas=Ramus also frowned in surprise.

“Isn’t this joke a bit too much?”

Acies glared at Urushihara in an extremely unhappy manner.

However, Urushihara himself glared back at Acies like he was unhappy at everyone’s reactions.

“Do you think I will actively do this kind of thing for the sake of a joke?”

“Then why is it like that. This kind of interest is a little too crude.”

“Ask the landlady next to me. I didn’t become like this because I like it!”

Urushiharas nudged his chin, pointing at Shiba who was standing in a composed manner next to the bed.

“Eh, but, what actually happened, Urushihara-san?”

Chiho raised her finger nervously and pointed.

“The colour of your hair.....?”

Urushihara's hair colour became different from what everyone remembered.

No, to be more accurate, everyone present had an impression of that hair colour.

It was just that Urushihara's hair colour was originally not that colour.

“I feel like I cannot calm down as well. Even though I did not do anything, it actually became this colour!”

Silver mixed with a little blue among the clear colour.

That was the same hair colour of Hero Emilia when was was wielding ‘Better Half’ at full power, and the hair colour of archangels Sarii and Gabriel.

“Is he.....Demon General Lucifer?”

Only Nord, who did not know Urushihara, honestly accepted Urushihara's current state, but Ashiya denied it from the side.

“No, that was someone else.”

“Hey, Ashiya! Don't run away from reality! Then again, who is that uncle? Why is Emerada Etuva here, what happened?”



Urushihara also protested against Nord, who he did not know, and Emerada, who appeared here like it was the most natural thing in the world, but the current atmosphere was not suited for introductions at all.

“Regarding the change in Urushihara-san’s hair colour, I’m afraid it’s because of my influence. Because the human characteristics part of him reacted strongly to my presence. As long as he leaves my range of influence, it should regain its original state after some time.”

“Even though I know saying this is very rude, I really hate this kind of manifestation.”

Even though it was just an example, Urushihara still did not want to admit that he had reacted to Shiba Miki because they were similar in some way, and from their faces, Maou and Ashiya seemed to be thinking about similar things.

“Anyway, since everyone is here, lets take turns and speak out about everything sincerely. Among all this, the reason for Urushihara-san’s hair turning like this must be contained within.”

Shiba said this like she wanted to calm the current situation, at this moment, Chiho’s expression instantly turned stiff.

“Chiho-chan?”

Emi, who noticed something strange with Chiho, called to her, but the latter only shook her head lightly.

“I, I’m fine.”

“Is that so? You look rather uncomfortable.....”

“No, I didn’t mean it that way.”

After Chiho thought for a bit, she looked back into Emi’s eyes.

“But, I.....believe in Yusa-san and Maou-san.”

“Eh? Ehh.....”

Emi looked surprised because she did not know what Chiho wanted to express, but because the latter did not continue speaking, Emi could only look at Shiba once again.

“Then, here, allow me to welcome the guests of the ‘foreign world’.”

Shiba walked past the bed and slowly walked towards Maou and the rest.

Maou and Ashiya backed up and cleared a path on reflex, but Shiba ignored both of them and walked towards Acies and Emi.

“.....What is it?”

No, she was walking towards Alas=Ramus in Emi’s arms.

Alas=Ramus seemed to feel a little ticklish being patted on the hair by Shiba’s fleshy hand, but for unknown reasons, Emi felt uneasy about Shiba’s expression.

After overlapping with the expression Chiho showed just now, Emi looked towards Chiho next to her on reflex.

Chiho was holding her breath like she knew beforehand what Shiba was going to say next.

“Looking back in history, people from different worlds interacting was not that rare of an occurrence. When people of different nations crossed the lands, or people from different continents crossed oceans, it can be considered as people from different worlds interacting. The situation of everyone here is only of a slightly large scale. Let me say this first, even if Maou-san and the rest of you want to stay in Japan, stay on Earth, or Sasaki Chiho-san goes to the hometown of Maou-san and the others, Ente Isla, there will not be any problems.”

However, everyone present held some belief in what Shiba was going to say next, their aura and gazes showed this clearly.

“But.....only these two will have to return to their original worlds as soon as possible.”

“Two.....”

In comparison to Maou who could only force his voice out because of the bad feeling he had, Shiba said this curtly,

“Alas=Ramus-san and Acies=Ala-san. As the personifications of the ‘Yesod’ Sephirah of Ente Isla, if the both of them continue to stay here, it is a very dangerous thing to the humans of Ente Isla.”

“Why? Even if ‘Yesod’ is known as the jewel which made up the world, haven’t they been their fragment form for a long time? However, nothing strange has happened to Ente Isla.”

Suzuno shouted in a flustered manner.

When quarrelling with Maou and the others on whether they should hand Alas=Ramus to Gabriel, the guardian of ‘Yesod’, it was Suzuno who was the first to deny the legend that the Sephirah were the jewels which made up the world.

How could it be possible to affect the structure of the whole world because of the situation of one jewel.

Could it be that the moon would disappear once the ‘Yesod’ which controlled the moon was destroyed? Or that the jewel she possessed, silver, will be destroyed as well? This kind of thing will not happen. Suzuno expressed her opinion, and denied the purpose of sending Alas=Ramus back to her original place.

“Kamazuki-san, just now, you said that nothing strange has happened?”

“Yeah.....”

Suzuno planned to continue speaking in an agitated manner, but Shiba’s gaze held a pressure which did not allow for rebuttals.

“If so, then what is it with your power?”

“M, my power?”

Suzuno could not help but look down at her own body.

“I have heard it from Amane and Sasaki Chiho-san. The injuries which you have sustained from the fight with the demons from the foreign world healed completely in only three days.”

“T, that is because I used healing spells.....”

“Then let me ask you. Kamazuki-san, have you seen similar powers in Japan or on Earth? That kind of power which can cause a blade wound which almost cut through the whole body to completely heal in just three days. If Sasaki Chiho-san was inflicted with a similar wound, even if she was able to survive, she would need to receive complete care for one month.”

“I said it was because.....”

“Do you still not understand?”

Shiba turned to Suzuno and said,

“The ‘healing spell’ which you mentioned, is the problem.”

“.....Eh?”

“I do not understand the history of everyone’s world----Ente Isla. But from the information I heard from Sasaki Chiho-san and Nord-san, that place seems to have a rather mature civilisation, and is a world where many humans live. Even so, that kind of power was preserved like it was something

natural. If these children----the Sephirah of Ente Isla were working normally, it would be impossible for this kind of thing to happen.”

“What does that mean~~? From what I hear, Shiba-san seems to think that ‘spells’ are not a power which should exist~~”

Shiba directly confirmed Emerada’s question which was filled with uneasiness, and then----

“Furthermore.....”

“the world is currently filled with ‘Holy magic’ and ‘Demonic magic’, this is not a good state to the people of Ente Isla.”

“What is going on? Are you telling us that the jewels which make up the world will really maintain the balance of the world, and as long as they are not there, the world will be destroyed.....”

“Kamazuki-san, please listen carefully to what other people say. From the beginning, I have never said that this world ‘Ente Isla’ will be in danger.”

“.....Huh?”

Shiba calmly put her hand on Suzuno’s shoulder.

“The ones who will face danger because of losing the Sephirah and the continuous existence of ‘Holy magic’ and ‘Demonic magic’ are only you ‘humans’.”

“Hu.....mans?”

Suzuno was still unable to grasp the true meaning of Shiba's words.

So she gave pleading looks to Emi, Emerada, Nord, as well as Ashiya, Urushihara and Maou.

But everyone could only shake their heads in a troubled manner.

“No matter what state the Sephirah are in, the oceans, skies or lands of Ente Isla and all the animals and plants which live on it will not be affected at all. The ones who are related to the Sephirah and Tree of Life are only the humans in the end. If Alas=Ramus-san and Acies=Ala-san continue like this and do not return to the place they should, the humans of Ente Isla will probably die out in the near future.”

Perhaps because in contrast to the heavy content, Shiba's tone appeared to be extremely plain, the Ente Isla humans who were told that they were going to go extinct were still unable to react.

“Of course this is something which will not happen tomorrow or the day after. I think that even after everyone's lives have ended, it would still look as if the humans of Ente Isla have not been affected in any way. But.....100 years later, or 200 years later, I cannot guarantee how things will turn out.”

“1, 100 years later?”

To the lives of humans, and the cycles of the world, 100 years was an overly long time.

But considering the history of humans, 100 years was really too short.

In addition, there were demons here with lifespans which were not just in the hundreds but even reached the thousands.

“L, landlady-san, I really do not think that the Ente Isla humans will die out in a short 100 years.”

Ashiya nervously expressed his opinion, Shiba nodded her head lightly.

“That’s true. But I think that if this goes on, forget about 500 years.....even making it to 300 years would be a problem. I have nothing to say if a huge meteor fell, but even if a destructive disaster like that does not happen, if they continue using holy magic or demonic magic like this, the humans of Ente Isla will have no future. The number of humans will slowly decrease, and will eventually face an extinction without any salvation.”

“What is this? If we do not know the cause and effect relation of the Sephirah and humans, I am completely unable to believe your words and obediently return Alas=Ramus.”

Even if everything present was swallowed up by Shiba’s aura, only Emi asked Shiba in a determined manner.

“This child and Acies are my.....is everyone’s precious existence. Talking about the place where they were originally staying at, it is actually Ente Isla’s Heaven. It is the place where the angels live, the people who do not care about the humans of Ente Isla and these children. I will definitely not allow these children to return to that kind of place.”

“Regarding the Heaven you mentioned.....that young man called Gabriel woke up a few days ago.”

“You said Gabriel?”

“He said some troubling things.”

Shiba sighed lightly and changed the topic.

“He, once Gabriel woke up, he immediately wanted to escape back to Heaven. Because he decided very quickly, we almost let him get away, but because something considered unfortunate to him happened, his escape failed.”

“Something unfortunate?”

Was there anything else more unfortunate than being cared for by Shiba? Maou and Ashiya’s conversation through their gazes was of course not said out loud.

“Ente Isla’s ‘Heaven’, in other words the place Alas=Ramus-san and Acies=Ala-san should return to, have been sealed. Currently, it has turned into a place which does not accept any external interference, and there is no way to return through the ‘gate’. Perhaps ‘they’ have decided to abandon these children.”

“Heaven was sealed.....talking about this, even though I have never been concerned about it before.....”

Emi seemed to suddenly remember something and turned to look at Maou.

“Hey, Demon King.”

“Huh?”

“Where is the Demon World?”

“.....Huh?”

Maou showed an expression as if he had been asked an idiotic question and asked Emi in return,

“Are you serious about asking that question?”

“What. Of course.”

Emi replied unhappily.

“Is it like the model of Paradise and Hell and is actually underneath the land of Ente Isla or something? Or is it like Earth and Ente Isla and is actually a different world.....”

“How is that possible. Do you really not know?”

Maou looked towards Ashiya and Urushihara in a troubled manner.

“Then again, we have never specially announced where we come from.”

“No one asked us anyway.”

Ashiya and Urushihara shrugged and nodded like they only discovered it now.

“Sigh.....nothing will happen if it is known anyway.....we came from the moon.”

“Eh?”

“.....”

Emi sucked in a breath, while Chiho next to her clenched her fists without anyone else noticing her doing so.

“Why are you so surprised. It’s the moon. The one which looks red when seen from Ente Isla. The Demon World is on that red moon.”

“You.....you said moon? T, then.....”

“Yeah. So Heaven is at the blue one.”

Urushihara nodded and bluntly said this to the surprised Suzuno.

“Calling them foreign worlds feels rather strange.”

Shiba ignored the surprised Emi and Suzuno, pulling open the curtains of the ward.

The bright sunlight shone into the room from outside the window, and from there, many tall buildings in the area of Yoyogi where Saikai University

Hospital was located could be seen, entering the cloud layer like they were going to pierce the sky.

“Earth, and Ente Isla, the lands with the Tree of Life do not exist on foreign worlds of different spaces, dimensions or times.”

Shiba looked up at the skies of Tokyo and stretched her hand out towards the sunlight like she found it to be too bright.

“Whether it is Earth or Ente Isla, they are drifting in the universe on the edge of this sky, on a planet where humans live.”

“.....So it’s like that.....”

Emi subconsciously said this with a sigh.

Evenr since she arrived in Japan, she had a vague feeling about this.

Even if she did not go to the observatory to learn about the night skies and the universe like what Acies did, she still had chances to know that Earth was a planet floating in the universe.

Through television, movies and internet, she also obtained related knowledge that the huge land was actually a large orb which possessed the force of gravity.

So as long as she thought back about her hometown---that place with the same looking humans, a breathable atmosphere, and the night skies where many stars shone.

Not long after, she realised that Ente Isla was perhaps a planet floating in the universe.

Even so, it had never crossed Emi's mind that the Demon World and Heaven were actually on the moon, after all this fact, this piece of information itself could not change anything about her situation.

It only brought a clearer picture to the originally vague term 'foreign world', no matter what, Earth and Ente Isla were not places which could be reached via plane, train or on foot.

On the contrary, ignoring what kind of significance that Heaven could not be reached by 'gate' had on Gabriel, at least to Emi and the others, it felt like good news.

After all, Heaven, who had been at odds with Emi and Alas=Ramus for a long time, acted first and cut off contact with their side.

However, Shiba spoke with a dangerous expression,

"If the Sephirah are to function normally, all the Sephirah must be gathered. According to what Acies said, only 'Yesod' have been separated from the other Sephirah for a few hundred years. It is not known how this situation will negatively affect the other Sephirah."

"The other, Sephirah....."

Ashiya's soft mumble caused Maou to remember the personification of 'Geburah', the young boy Iron.

Even though Iron listened to Heaven's commands, from how guardian angel Camael, who logically should be able to command him, Camael and Iron do not have a relationship in the original sense where they commanded each other.

Ashiya, the only one to have contact with Iron in the battle at Afashan, crossed his arms and asked Shiba,

“Landlady-san, what are these negative effects which you speak of?”

“About that.....even though the effect of ‘Yesod’ not being around was already expressed through ‘spells’, for the other effects, unless I see them for myself, I cannot discern them, I cannot do anything about it as well, for this part I can only leave it to everyone.....”

“Actually saying that you cannot do anything about it.....”

After Shiba freely spoke her mind, suddenly saying that she was unable to interfere, even if Maou frowned because of this, Amane interrupted him and said,

“This can't be helped, Aunt Mi-chan is a Sephirah of Earth after all. Her power can only be used for the people of Earth in the first place.”

“Sephirah.....then again, is that true? Landlady-san is of the same existence as Alas=Ramus and Acies.....”

Maou asked in a half-believing manner, Shiba nodded directly and answered,

“Even though I am not ‘Yesod’, and the responsibilities I have are subtly different from the other Sephirah.”

“May I know which Sephirah are you?”

Suzuno asked.

If they could know which of the ten Sephirah Shiba was a personification of, as material for verification, there was no other information which would be more valuable than this.

However, Shiba’s answer surpassed Suzuno’s imagination.

“I am the eleventh Sephirah.”

“.....Eleventh?”

Suzuno blinked a few times in surprise. Because this was not a number which existed in her knowledge.

According to the records of the bible, there were only ten jewels which make up the world.

“.....Not knowing the existence of the eleventh Sephirah. Among the negative effects on Ente Isla, this is considered the most serious problem. Acies does not know about the existence of the eleventh Sephirah as well.”

“Even if you say that, I don’t know the things which I don’t know.”

Acies said this nonchalantly, but an unexpected party actually reacted to this number.

“The eleventh.....Sephirah huh? I seemed to have heard it from someone before.....”

“Urushihara?”

“Ah, I remember. Satan told me about this.”

“Eh? Me?”

Urushihara said this with a relaxed tone like he was remembering yesterday’s dinner, Maou replied frantically,

“Did I tell you this kind of thing before? Are you sure it’s not Camio?”

The first time Maou obtained knowledge about the Sephirah was from Demon Secretary Camio, even though it was something which happened so long ago that he forgot about this information, because he had an opportunity to read the bibles of the Church when invading Ente Isla, there was a need for him to brush up on this knowledge, but he only did that to quench his thirst for knowledge, and did not plan to use it or tell others about it.

So after Maou explained himself, Urushihara shook his head, waved his hand and said,

“No, I wasn’t talking about Maou.”

““““The Ancient Demon King, Satan.””””

The voices of three people overlapped.

One of them was of course, Urushihara.

Another one was actually Acies.

And the last one was the most unexpected person of all.

“Chiho-chan?”

Emi and the others looked at Chiho in surprise.

“Hm?”

“Chiho?”

Urushihara and Acies, expressing their confusion simultaneously, also looked at Chiho in surprise.

“Eh? Sasaki Chiho, why? Maou, did you say anything to her?”

“No.....”

When everyone was shocked, Maou shook his head in response to Urushihara’s question.

Only Shiba, Amane and Maou pushed down their initial surprise and carefully observed Chiho.

“Why would that Sasaki Chiho know about the title ‘Ancient Demon King’

“I am also concerned why Acies knows about it.....Sasaki-san, who told you about this?”

Ashiya looked at Acies and Chiho in turn.

Then, Chiho quickly looked towards Ashiya.

“Sa, Sasaki-san?”

Ashiya sensed something was wrong from Chiho’s expression.

Because Chiho, who did not participate in the conversation at all because she was not someone from Ente Isla, until just now, she had been listening from the side with a serious expression on her face.

However, Chiho’s current expression seemed to be out of place with the current scene.

It was serious, yet contained some feeling of emptiness, and even exuded some strange leisurely feeling.

“I know things about the Ancient Demon King Satan.”

“Aunt Mi-chan, this is.....”

“Yeah, I’m afraid it’s that.”

Seeing Chiho produce a voice which could be heard yet felt like it was going to disappear immediately, Amane exuded tension in her whole body, on the contrary, Shiba did not display any changes in demeanour at all.

“.....Chi-chan! What do you know?”

Maou’s sharp voice caused everyone in the room to focus on him.

Maou stretched out his right arm, stopping Amane and Shiba, who were feeling tense because of Chiho’s state.

“Everyone, please quiet down a bit. A similar situation has happened in the past.”

Maou slowly said this to Urushihara, Emerada, Nord and Acies, hinting for them not to act carelessly.

“You have something you want to tell us right now, is it?”

“Yeah.”

Just as Chiho replied Maou in a trance----

“““!””””

Emi, Ashiya and Suzuno who calmed themselves down because of Maou’s sharp shout at the beginning, noticed that Maou’s left hand twitched once.

““““””””

So the three of them quickly exchanged glances with one another in places where Chiho could not see.

“.....Ugh?”

“Father, what’s wrong?”

At this moment, standing behind Emerada, Nord let out a groan, after Acies noticed with her sharp eyes, she expressed her concern.

“Ah, it’s nothing, I just feel a little dizzy. It’s nothing serious.....”

After Maou confirmed Nord’s physical state out of the corner of his eye, he asked Chiho once more.

“Tell us, what do you know?”

Chiho did not notice Emi, Ashiya and Suzuno’s situation, and slowly opened her mouth,

“The eleventh Sephirah. What used to be known as the ‘Great Demon King’, a certain an.....”

The moment Chiho started to explain like she was reciting poetry.

“Do it!”

Maou suddenly gave his instruction.

In this instant.

Emi, Ashiya and Suzuno quickly took action.

Ashiya walked towards the double door closet, Suzuno walked towards the sliding door of the bathroom, Emi walked towards the sliding door entrance of the ward, and the three of them quickly pulled open the doors in front of them.

““Kya?””

These two soft screams overlapped.

Emi had guessed correctly.

After pulling open the door of the ward, Emi discovered a nurse who was extremely surprised.

The soft scream just now came from this nurse.

In that moment just now, the screams of the nurse and Chiho had overlapped.

“Don’t let her escape, Emi!”

“Kyah!”

“Eh.....fwah?”

Without any prompting from Maou, Emi had already grabbed the collar of that nurse and pulled her into the room with an aura like the nurse was going to receive a caning punishment.

Behind Acies and Nord who had looks of surprise on their faces and did not have time to process what was going on, Chiho yawned in a dazed manner like she had just woken up.

“W, w, what are all of you doing?”

The nurse panicked because the visitors who came to see the patient suddenly became violent. Even though it did look like this when viewed objectively.

But Emi continued to grab onto the back of the nurse’s collar and did not let go, Suzuno and Ashiya also moved to the entrance and window of the ward respectively to ‘seal off any means of escape’.

“What are all of you doing! I’m going to call people here!”

“Ohh, try calling them then.”

Maou glared at the nurse who shouted loudly with a dangerous gaze, and slowly walked towards her.

This nurse who looked close to 30 years old wearing a clean and crisp blue nurse’s uniform was frantically trying to get away from Emi.

“Just now, I released a little bit of demonic magic in this room.”

But after hearing Maou say this, she gave up on struggling.

“Not considering the people with holy magic, that uncle was so comfortable that he felt dizzy you know? If it was a normal person from Earth, once they enter the room, they would show signs of heart palpitations, breathing difficulties, lethargy and dizziness, and would not be able to run away at all. It looks like your body is rather strong huh.”

“.....wait.”

“This time is different from the ‘recording’ last time. Chi-chan did ‘converse’ with me just now. So I thought that you were nearby, but didn’t you go too far this time.”

“.....”

The nurse who was still being grabbed by Emi, suddenly became corporative after listening to Maou’s explanation, then surveyed the people who have gathered in the room with a cautious gaze.

“.....Eh? Eh? Yu, Yusa-san? What are you doing?”

Chiho’s airheaded voice, broke the short bout of tension in the current situation.

As if answering to Chiho’s voice, the nurse released all the energy in her body and hung her head in depression.

“.....I miscalculated this time.....”

She spoke like a changed person.

Maou clenched his fist like he was angered by this sentence.

“I’ll punch you.”

“I don’t remember teaching you to be a person who punches women.”

“You should know I became a Demon King later right. And gender equality exists for this moment.”

“I don’t think it’s like that.....”

“Demon King-sama. This woman was the one controlling Sasaki-san?”

“Eh? Was something wrong with me?”

Chiho got a shock by Ashiya’s question, Maou nodded lightly.

“Who is this person? Demon King, do you know anything about the identity of this person who acted recklessly to control Chiho-chan from a distance?”

Emi also asked with a stern tone while glaring at the nurse who was being grabbed by her.

The height of this nurse was about Emi’s height, she was wearing a green mask for work purposes and pinned her hair behind her with a large amount of hairpins like the other hospital employees.

From just her appearance, she looked like a Japanese person with no special characteristics. And of course, no one present recognised her appearance.

But----

“Emi.”

“What is it?”

“Even though she is a reckless person, you cannot address her in this manner.”

“Huh?”

Ignoring the surprised Emi, Maou spoke to the nurse,

“Hey, is it alright for me to say this? I’m fine with that though.”

“.....This is bad.”

At this moment, the nurse’s voice changed significantly.

“!”

The one who reacted to the voice first and raised his head was Nord, whose face became very frail because he came into contact with Maou’s demonic magic.

“Don’t tell me.....”

The nurse looked towards Nord with a sad expression----

“Huh?”

Then her whole body suddenly started to glow.

“Emi, don’t let go! Ashiya, Suzuno, don’t let her get away!”

“Eh, ehh? W, what’s happening?”

“U, understood.”

“Y, yeah.”

Ignoring the troubled trio----

“I’m not going to run away.”

A composed voice was heard within the light.

“Ugh?”

Emi sucked in a breath.

“Wha.....!”

Nord groaned in surprise.

“Ah~~!”

Emerada raised her finger and shouted loudly.

“Eh, Mama?”

Alas=Ramus mumbled softly.

Soft, smooth silver hair and red eyes. That was the proof of being an angel of Heaven like Gabriel.

But in this current situation, it could only be considered an insignificant detail.

Everyone present stared at that face.

“.....I’m sorry, I made a fool of myself.”

The beautiful angel who was still grabbed by the collar showed an embarrassed smile.

“Such a troublesome person actually appearing at such a troublesome moment.”

Even though his face was stony, Maou still looked at that angel with a rather nostalgic expression on his face.

“You better be prepared not to have anything to eat until you explain everything. After all, everyone present has been tormented long enough by a laid back person like you.”

“Yeah.....I understandpuh!”

Even though Maou's tone was rather unhappy, some kindness was still mixed within, just as that angel prepared to respond, a clear sound interrupted her, and the groan which came after that, destroyed her previous holy image entirely.

Emi used the hand other than the one she used to grab the back of the angel's collar and gave her a slap.

“.....”

“H, hey, Emi?”

“E, Emilia! Wait! She is.....”

Maou and Nord frantically tried to talk Emi out of her sudden action.

“.....”

““Eep!””

But faced with Emi's cold expression and the fierce glare which she had never showed before, the King of Demon who ruled the Demon World and the father of the Hero could only scream.

“Eh, e, erhm.....”

On the other hand, the one who was getting hit looked at Emi in surprise like she did not understand what just happened.

She did look----

“I say, Emipuh!”

Just as that angel wanted to say something to Emi who had pulled her up, she was immediately interrupted by another slap.

“You better clench your jaw.”

“Uh, er, erhm, can you wait a buh!”

“Who’s going to wait for you.”

“P, please, I will explain everything honestlypu!”

“No matter what you say, you better not expect me to trust everything you say easily.”

“E, erhm, please, listen to mepuhh!”

“I will listen. But after listening, only worse things will be waiting for you later. Because the things you have done to me are just this bad.”

“I, I really feel sorry with regards to you! I am sincere, I’m fine with whatever you want to do to me later on, please let go of me first! And please stop hitting my face!”

Everytime the angel said one sentence, the clear sound of a slap would be heard in the ward, faced with Emi’s absolute zero stare, the angel could only plead while crying, and after this situation was repeated a few times----

“Emi! Emi! You’ve gone too far! She won’t be able to speak like that! And her face already looks like the face of a child in the cartoons when they have a toothache!”

“Emilia~~! Please calm down a bit~~!”

“Yusa-san! Don’t! Please stop hitting her!”

“Onee-san, you can’t watch okay?”

“What is it~ what are both my Mamas doing~”

“E, Emilia! Emilia! Please bear with it for now! Please, this is your father’s one in a lifetime request!”

Maou, Emerada and Chiho tried with all their might to stop Emi who was repeatedly waving her palm with a blank expression, Acies continued to cover Alas=Ramus’s eyes to avoid her seeing Emi’s violent act, and lastly, Nord grabbed the arm which would not let go of the back collar of the nurse’s uniform and tried to dissipate the situation between the both of them.

“Afuuuuuuuuu.....”

When Emi finally stopped her violent act, the face of the beautiful female angel had already become a mix of a napoleon fish and a giant trevally, a pitiful state.

“.....Huff.....huff.....”

Emi continued to remain in the posture of raising her left hand to slap someone with an empty gaze, after Maou handed her in that state to be handled by Emerada and Chiho, he said to the angel,

“Hey, I’m not going to harm you, it would be better if you explained everything you know to us honestly, yeah? If not, with that person’s (Emilia) current state, a situation where we might not be able to protect you may occur, if you’re not careful you might even be killed!”

“Alright.....”

The angel, being supported on the shoulder by Nord, nodded lightly, and replied with a voice mixed with tears, from that voice, it sounded weaker and more unreliable from what Maou remembered.

Maou sighed, and his shoulders sagged in depression.

“Only that strange part of you has not changed since before.”

The memories of a young demon who had never expected to become the King of Demons ruling the Demon World in the far future, surfaced from the sparse bottom layer of his memories.

“It’s been a while, Lailah.”

The young demon and beautiful angel who had met each other on the red moon, successfully reunited in the blue planet.

--Continued--

Author, Afterword -- AND YOU –

Entering a new environment will always make people feel nervous right.

It is evident for changing classes, transferring schools and moving on to higher education levels, when going to tuition classes or starting work, one will also experience this kind of situation.

As long as a person enters society, they will enter a new workplace or department, and even change their residential address.

Regardless of the person, when placed in a new environment, that person would be troubled about the unknown future, or have experiences of being so nervous that they cannot sleep.

This occurred before the debut of ‘Hataraku! Maou-sama’. There was actually a significant gap of time between when I received the notification phone call that this series had reached the final selection of the Dengeki Novel Prize and when I went to the editorial department. During this period of time, Wagahara was meaninglessly worrying about what will happen next everyday, causing me to make mistakes which I will normally not make during work, and my physical health worsened.

I will never forget what happened the day I went to the editorial department for the first time. 20 minutes before the arranged time, I had already arrived at the building where the editorial department was located, when I was passing the time, I ran to the toilet at the Shinjuku Central Gardens 4 times because I was overly nervous, and I did it at full power each time.

After that, before the publishing of the first volume of “Hataraku! Maou-sama”, I passed another period of time with nervousness. I became nervous

once again when writing the continuation. I went through another period of nervousness before the publishing for the continuation, this situation repeated itself continuously, and before I knew it, “Hataraku! Maou-sama” had accumulated to 11 volumes.

Even though every single time I write a new story, I will worry about whether I would be able to write a good story because I cannot forget my very first bout of nervousness, since I am able to meet with everyone again, it should mean that I am still unable to forget my roots.

When this book reaches everyone’s hands, it should be May 2014. Spring is known as the season of encounters, but also has a term known as May sickness (T/N: A mental condition caused by being unable to adjust to a new environment), so I believe this period is a divide which shows if a person is able to adjust to a new environment.

The story this time is a story about a group of people who are troubled about a new environment, wondering how to adjust to it, but decided to not adjust to it in the end, people who run around with the priority of troubling over their three meals today or tomorrow.

The few limitations which have been set in this series “Hataraku! Maou-sama” have been released with this book as the barrier.

I hope everyone will be able to like the 11th volume of “Hataraku! Maou-sama” which has entered a new stage, and I look forward to being able to meet with everyone again in the next volume.

See you!



Credits

Hataraku Maou-sama! Volume 11

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